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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 27, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF WENDY SALBERG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of one of my district staff members, Wendy Salberg, as she marks 10 years serving in my office and 15 years serving the people of Illinois.

Wendy began her work as a congressional staffer in the office of Republican Congresswoman Judy Biggert, who for many years represented the old 13th District of Illinois.

In 2012, after I was fortunate to win the election to represent the newly created 11th Congressional District, which incorporated many of the areas of the old 13th District, it soon became clear that we needed to keep Wendy Salberg on the job.

Wendy has dedicated herself to serving constituents, no matter what their background, helping them navigate the world of the Federal agencies. Wendy quickly earned a reputation throughout the Illinois congressional delegation as being one of the best advocates for people with immigration and international travel issues, from simple passport applications to complicated citizenship cases.

I was fortunate that Wendy agreed to stay on and manage immigration casework for my office, and countless constituents who have worked with her over the past 10 years would undoubtedly agree. I cannot tell you how many people have reached out to me over the years or come to me at events I have attended to tell me how grateful they were for the work that Wendy put into their cases.

Beyond her day-to-day work, Wendy's value to our office cannot be understated. No matter what she is doing, she will drop everything to help her coworkers with whatever they need, whether it be advice, a good laugh, or just an ear to listen. Day in and day out, she is a warm, welcoming presence who truly embodies our mission to serve the people of Illinois and to serve those around her.

I could not be prouder to have her on my staff, and her former boss, Representative Judy Biggert, agrees. In joining me in celebrating Wendy's service to the people of Illinois, she wrote, "Helping constituents navigate their way through layers of government bureaucracy is seldom easy, but no bureaucratic barrier was ever a serious match for Wendy's tenacity and inventiveness. When she is on your case, it is

like a dog with a bone—dedicated, persistent, and completely involved. If there is a way to solve your problem, Wendy will find it."

All of us who know her know that these words could not be more true.

It is my distinct honor to recognize the service of Wendy Salberg on behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District and the old 13th District of Illinois.

SAVING LIVES WITH CPR AND AUTOMATIC DEFIBRILLATORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is estimated that more than 100,000 additional lives could be saved each year if CPR was initiated on time. We saw firsthand that CPR saved the life of Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin, who was resuscitated after collapsing during a game in Cincinnati this year on January 2.

Sadly, more than 7,000 young people are stricken by sudden cardiac arrest like the one that was suffered by Damar Hamlin, and it is currently the leading cause of death for student athletes. That is why it is so critical that teachers, coaches, and all trainers become proficient on how to perform CPR and how to use automatic defibrillators.

By completing CPR training and by placing automatic defibrillators within reach at athletic venues, we can help to restart hearts, save lives, and protect our student athletes.

RESTORING OUR NATION TO ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as Americans look to return to energy dominance, it has become clear that we urgently need a change in

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H1441

our energy policy by reforming the permitting process, by boosting the production of critical minerals, and by reversing President Biden's antienergy policies that have made our country less secure.

It is time to pass H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act, and increase domestic energy production to restore our Nation to the energy independence that we enjoyed before President Biden took office.

H.R. 1 will stop Biden's \$6 billion natural gas tax. It will require the Department of the Interior to resume lease sales on Federal lands. H.R. 1 will enhance our ability to develop critical energy resources.

Unfortunately, Pennsylvania families are hurting because of the restrictive energy policies enacted by far-left liberals under the guise of green energy. Now is the time to embrace the critical resources like oil, natural gas, and Marcellus shale that are underneath the feet of my constituents in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District. It is time to pass H.R. 1 and get back to working for the American people.

HONORING GWEN DOWDY-RODGERS, VANESSA PEREZ, AND PAULA GRANADO FLORES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize three phenomenal women in my district for Women's History Month. These women were nominated by their peers and local elected officials for their incredible dedication to supporting the Inland Empire.

The first woman I recognize is Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers. Dr. Dowdy-Rodgers is the first Black woman to serve on the San Bernardino County Board of Education. She was born and raised in San Bernardino, and first became involved in the school system as a parent advocate.

She is a fierce advocate for mental health in schools, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. She believes that mental health issues need to be a priority in schools so students can stay happy and healthy in their learning environment.

Besides serving with distinction on the Board of Education, she serves as the president of the Arrowhead United Way board of directors, co-chair of the San Bernardino County Gangs and Drugs Task Force, and a member of the San Bernardino City Police Department African American Advisory Committee.

My community is lucky to have Dr. Dowdy-Rodgers, a committed public servant dedicated to helping our students and hearing the concerns of parents.

The second woman I recognize is Ms. Vanessa Perez. Vanessa is executive director of the Time for Change Foundation. She is an active volunteer in our

community through her work and her involvement in her church, The Way World Outreach.

Through her work at Time for Change, Vanessa is living out a passion of empowering women to use their voice to create change. In 2014, she completed the Women's Foundation of California's Solis Policy Institute, which provided her with the skills necessary to navigate the California legislative process and influence decision-makers to create policies that improved the quality of life of San Bernardino residents and all Californians.

Madam Speaker, the third woman I recognize is Ms. Paula Granado Flores. She is a long-term volunteer and co-chair of ACS Colton Relay for Life and a frequent volunteer in several local churches, Seeds For Hope, and the American Legion. Ms. Flores has dedicated her free time for decades to help the residents of San Bernardino County.

These women are changing my community for the better every day, and I am proud to be their Representative here in Congress. They have made a lasting impact in our region and deserve to be recognized for the extraordinary work that they have done to further our community.

As we round out Women's History Month, I thank them for their service to our region, to the Inland Empire, and to the State of California.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO LOWELL DIBBLE AND MAX WILSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two World War II veterans who recently celebrated their 100th and 101st birthdays.

Lowell Dibble of Iowa City, Iowa, celebrated his 101st birthday on St. Patrick's Day. Mr. Dibble served as a radio operator for the Merchant Marines during the Second World War, using Morse code and other communications to receive and record time signals, weather reports, and other information important to the smooth operation of their vessels.

Mr. Dibble starts each day with a workout and still talks to his friends in Morse code every night. He attributes his longevity to his positive attitude, his faith, and keeping busy. We can all learn a valuable lesson from Mr. Dibble, who should be an inspiration for people of all ages who struggle to find motivation in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I also recognize Max Wilson from Maquoketa, Iowa, who celebrated his 100th birthday last month.

Mr. Wilson was drafted in 1941 and served as a bombardier during the Second World War, flying 43 missions in a B-17 in five different countries. As bombardier, he was responsible for

landing more than 240,000 tons of bombs on target during critical missions throughout the war.

Mr. Wilson is a humble man who doesn't see himself as a hero, though he certainly is deserving of recognition. On his birthday, he received a special gift from the University of Dubuque's Jet Center—a private flight around Dubuque and down to his hometown of Maquoketa.

Mr. Dibble and Mr. Wilson are two heroes from the Greatest Generation, and I am honored to recognize them both on the House floor. I hope each enjoyed a wonderful and memorable birthday.

CHINA IS OUR GREATEST FOREIGN THREAT

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss China's growing role in international relations and its impact on American national security.

In just the last few weeks, China has brokered a peace deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia and re-established diplomatic relations with Honduras following its break with Taiwan. Both negotiations are worrisome as Iran continues to target and kill Americans in Syria and China edges closer to invading Taiwan. Also, the Chinese Communist Party is fully supporting Russia in its unprecedented and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

China's growing influence across Latin America is concerning, particularly as these relationships continue to appear lopsided. Nations are receiving investments from the Chinese, but in return are left dependent on the Chinese Communist Party.

The Middle East is especially concerning, though. For decades, the United States has brokered peace negotiations in the region or, at the very least, been in the room as these deals have been agreed upon.

Between Iran and Saudi Arabia, however, the United States was left out. The implications of this decision are profound, particularly as Iran continues to sponsor terrorist attacks as it is unclear what peace was agreed to and our response was weak.

Our Nation has watched as the Chinese Communist Party has grown in power and influence, and has fallen victim to its espionage efforts whether through TikTok, Confucius Institutes, or even spy balloons.

The Chinese Communist Party's goals are clear: Infiltrate and undermine American economic and national security. As the CCP's influence continues to grow, its threat to our national security does too. We must actively seek ways to decouple our economy, end our dependence on Chinese supply chains, and bolster our national security.

China is our greatest foreign threat and it is time we begin to act accordingly.

I wish a happy birthday to Joseph and Matthew Martino of Connecticut, who are my nephews. Happy 16th birthday, Joseph and Matthew.

Congratulations to Kyle and Jill Jacobs on the birth of their daughter, Sierra Rose, on Saturday. I hope that they are able to get some sleep.

□ 1215

WORKING TOWARD A BETTER BANKING SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we seem to have escaped the critical stage of this bank meltdown. We have not escaped without cost.

The FDIC announced today that they—and this is a vague estimate—will have to spend \$20 billion with regard to Silicon Valley Bank. That money will then be collected by fees that are on banks—basically, on depositors—in coming years.

More importantly, our economy has faced a huge shock. Business loans that would have been made were not made in the last month and probably will not be made in months to come.

The only silver lining there is the Fed was looking to slow down the economy, but this is one hell of a way to do it.

We have a fundamentally undemocratic system for regulating banks.

First, for the regional banks, the district Reserve banks, their Boards of Governors are not selected through a process of democracy. Elections are supposed to have consequences, but neither Congress nor the President has any role in selecting most of these directors. Instead, they are selected by the banks. In what way should we have governmental power vested that way?

Then, we have the Financial Accounting Standards Board, which claims not to even be part of the government and, therefore, doesn't claim to be responsible to the voters of this country. Yet, it collects taxes and writes, in effect, accounting laws.

Finally, we have a forum-shopping system that allows a bank to have a holding company, not have a holding company, be State regulated, be Federal regulated, and pit one regulatory group up against another.

Many countries have had, for long periods of their history, zombie banks, where the government thinks it is best to hide the losses of the bank, and somehow, the economy can go on. It works for a while some of the time.

Unfortunately, we have a similar system here. We have a system where losses on bonds are not recognized by the bank and often not even looked at adequately by the regulators, but losses on Main Street loans are recognized before they occur, even if they do not occur, on an anticipated basis.

A bank whose bonds have gone up in value can classify those bonds as available for sale and recognize a profit. If the bonds have gone down in value, they just classify them as not available

for sale but to be held to maturity, a mere bookkeeping entry, and they don't have to recognize the losses.

Our banking system has \$600 billion, at least, of unrecognized losses where we are hiding the losses in the footnotes. Our regulators don't regularly look at this.

We have had stress tests where they looked for a number of stresses, but not the stress that interest rates will go up and bonds will go down in market value. That is like having a stress test on a building where you test it for a flood and don't bother to test it for an earthquake.

We need stress tests that look at the most obvious stress that banks will always have. Interest rates can go up; interest rates can go down. Regulators know that. They have chosen to hide it from themselves.

The FDIC insures deposits only up to \$250,000. That is a major increase from where it was 15 years ago. We might want to go higher, but if we do, we should limit that additional insurance to non-interest-bearing accounts.

When businesses are using the bank as a payment system, as a utility, when businesses instead want to invest \$1 million, \$2 million, \$3 million of their money, they have a responsibility for finding an investment vehicle, whether it be a bank or otherwise, that is sound.

We have to prohibit the exclusive banking relationships where companies were told by Silicon Valley Bank: "You must have all your spare cash in our bank, which means we, the bank, take a risk on you, but you have to bet your whole company that our bank will survive." We need companies to diversify their deposits.

Finally, cryptocurrency should not be listed on the balance sheets of any bank. It is simply way too speculative.

I look forward to working for a better banking system. My fear is that, like the losses on bonds, we will simply put under the carpet the losses and problems, go on saying we will patch it together, and not tell the American people that there are fundamental problems that should be addressed.

CALLING ATTENTION TO HIGHER EDUCATION PROBLEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, we have many problems today in higher education, one of which is the excessive kind of anti-God, liberal approach, leftwing approach, I will say, of the faculty in general, which, of course, flops over to the students. Some of it should be addressed, and we should try to get back to some sort of balance in higher education.

America is very divided today: about 50 percent more conservative and about 50 percent more leftwing, more progressive. Hypothetically, the faculty at

America's colleges and universities ought to reflect that.

Instead, a recent trend is going to push things in the exact opposite direction, and that is the movement of colleges and universities, including the colleges and universities with the highest reputations in the country, to get rid of standardized tests.

What result will getting rid of standardized tests have on the type of people who are admitted to all of our colleges and universities, but particularly our elite colleges and universities? Right now, a standardized test is something you either do well on or don't. A lot of people are nervous about standardized tests, but in any event, some determination has to be made on how some people get into college and some people don't.

As we get rid of standardized tests, we are going to put more weight on things like an essay students submit to try to get into college. We are going to put more weight on extracurriculars or nonprofits that students work for. What effect is that going to have on the type of students who are admitted?

Given that these are subjective determinations, we know very well the professors or other people on the admissions committees will look at where you are doing your extracurriculars. Are you active in an evangelical church? Are you active in a conservative political party? Or are you active in more left-leaning nonprofit organizations?

They will look at your essay, which is purely a subjective determination. The danger is that these leftwing faculty members will say: Oh, this person doesn't look like he will fit in here. This person is a conservative. This person is a Christian.

As a result, this ought to be of great alarm to everyone. Not to mention, the scores you get on these tests do a good job of predicting how well you will do in school. As a result, it is going to lower the quality of students.

Already you hear from employers that college graduates are not as qualified, that their work ethic isn't as good as new employees they had 20 years ago. What will be the effect of removing these standards?

Furthermore, it is going to have a negative impact, I think, on people who come from backgrounds without as much money. You only have so much time before you go to college to put together your resume. If you need more money, if you have to work, say, 30 hours a week at the local McDonald's, you don't have time to put together the long resume that looks so good at college admissions.

Today or in the past, with standardized tests, the kid who has to work 30 hours a week at McDonald's and doesn't have time for a lot of do-gooder causes can do a great job on his standardized test and still get in. This penalizes the person who has to do a lot of work on the outside and rewards the student who doesn't have to make any money on the side in high school.

This is certainly not something that we want, but it will unquestionably be the result of getting rid of standardized tests.

It will also increase the importance of, perhaps, high school grade points. One more time, a grade point is, to a certain extent, subjective, as well. We hear already in high school, but all the time in college—we will come back to that in a second. Already in high school, students have to lie a little bit on the essay because the teachers are very liberal.

I had a teacher who taught at a high school in Wisconsin, a very sizable high school, and she said she was the only Republican in the whole faculty of that high school. What does that say about your grade point coming out of high school? I don't know if I believe her—it was a very large high school—but she felt she was the only one.

In other words, what you are going to wind up with, once these subjective determinations are made, is you are going to have the same liberal bias that happens once you get into college.

I talked to an English professor at the University of Wisconsin.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GROTHMAN. In any event, I strongly encourage this institution—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LANGWORTHY) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and all-loving God, we approach Your throne this day with prayers on behalf of those who perished in the recent tornadoes across the Southern United States and for the survivors who now find themselves searching for scraps of their livelihood amidst the devastation.

We pray especially for the men, women, and children of Rolling Fork and other towns like it as they face the monumental task of combing through the debris of their lives, establishing safe living conditions amidst downed power lines and fouled water sources, all the while grieving the inconceivable loss of loved ones and neighbors. Despite our own inability to grasp the

enormity of this tragedy, hear our prayers, as inadequate as they may seem to be in the face of this catastrophe.

You, O Lord, are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Grant, then, all who are enduring heartbreak and loss the courage to meet with strength the uncertainty ahead of them. Remind them, though the Earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult, You, O God, are in the midst of their city.

Lord of hosts, remain with Rolling Fork, for we believe You are the refuge for all who are lost, afraid, and anguished this day.

Hear our prayers as we offer them in Your most powerful name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

AMERICAN FAMILIES AT RISK

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, Secretary of State Blinken admitted at the Foreign Affairs Committee hearing that 175 Americans are still in the terrorist safe haven of Afghanistan, despite the Biden promise of leaving no Americans behind.

President Donald Trump was correct; the surrender was the greatest foreign policy humiliation in U.S. history.

Biden refuses to release letters he claimed, on August 26, 2021, that blamed military leaders for his disastrous decision.

A March 6 Washington Post editorial said the Biden administration will be judged by victory in Ukraine, liberating all of Ukraine from war criminal Putin. Democracies with rule of law must prevail over authoritarians by rule of gun with the Ukraine invasion, Taiwan threats, and nuclear capabilities against Israel and America.

Sadly, with an open southern border with nearly 200 names of known terror-

ists crossing under Biden, American families have never been at greater risk of mass murder.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years from the global war on terrorism as it continues moving from Afghanistan's safe haven to America.

Our prayers for the families in Nashville.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 7455(a), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy:

Mr. WOMACK, Arkansas

Mr. DAVIDSON, Ohio

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 1903(b), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy:

Mr. RUTHERFORD, Florida

Mrs. MCCLAIN, Michigan

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO JAPAN-UNITED STATES FRIENDSHIP COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2903, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Japan-United States Friendship Commission:

Mr. SMITH, Nebraska

Mr. TAKANO, California

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 2 of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715a), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission:

Mr. WITTMAN, Virginia

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EDWARDS) at 5 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE AND THE NATIONAL HONOR GUARD AND PIPE BAND EXHIBITION

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 15) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 15

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the 42d Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service (in this resolution referred to as the “Memorial Service”), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to honor the law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2022.

(b) DATE OF MEMORIAL SERVICE.—The Memorial Service shall be held on May 15, 2023, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate, with preparation for the event to begin on May 10, 2023, and takedown completed on May 16, 2023.

SEC. 2. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL HONOR GUARD AND PIPE BAND EXHIBITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition (in this resolution referred to as the “Exhibition”), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to allow law enforcement representatives to exhibit their ability to demonstrate Honor Guard programs and provide for a bagpipe exhibition.

(b) DATE OF EXHIBITION.—The Exhibition shall be held on May 14, 2023, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of

Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsors of the Memorial Service and Exhibition shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the events.

SEC. 4. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsors referred to in section 3(b) are authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment, as may be required for the Memorial Service and Exhibition.

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the events.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 15.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have introduced this resolution along with Ranking Member TITUS of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management.

This resolution authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the 42nd Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Event to honor law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

These men and women put on their uniforms each day to serve and protect our communities and our families.

Violent crime continues to be a daily tragedy in this country, and we have seen it, as a matter of fact, again today.

It is critical that we recognize that police officers are doing an extremely difficult and dangerous job day in, day out, 365 days a year, to keep Americans safe.

To all the law enforcement officers who put on the badge each day, who wear it with honor and distinction, we say thank you, and we support you.

This resolution is just one small way we can demonstrate our support for these officers and their families and honor the men and women who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2022, including, unfortunately, 19 individuals from my home State of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this resolution and reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in support of H. Con. Res. 15, which authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the 42nd Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

As the ranking member of the subcommittee that oversees our public buildings, it is my honor to carry this resolution alongside subcommittee chair, Mr. PERRY.

The memorial service, which will be held on May 15, will be coordinated with the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police, and it will honor 557 officers whose names will be added to the memorial, including 9 from Nevada.

The memorial will also continue to recognize the sacrifice of law enforcement during the pandemic as they served among the millions of frontline and essential workers who day in and day out risked their lives and their families' safety to keep us safe while we slowed the spread of that deadly virus.

We cannot bring back those that we have lost, but we can honor the sacrifice they made to keep ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities safe.

I note the officers from southern Nevada who made the ultimate sacrifice: Bailiff Gerald “Bear” Smith served in the Pahrump Justice Court since 2009, and he is remembered for his constant compassion and going out of his way to do anything he could to help the people of Pahrump.

Bailiff Smith passed away on January 18, 2021, from complications as a result of contracting COVID in the line of duty.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Officer Closi, Philip Closi, who served in the department for 21 years, including working closely with local students as part of the DARE program. He previously served as a firefighter and paramedic.

Officer Closi passed away on August 11, 2021, from complications, again, as a result of contracting COVID in the line of duty.

Sergeant Douglas King served 17 years in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and prior to his death was set to receive the department's Medal of Honor for placing himself in danger to save the life of a domestic violence victim.

On August 23, 2021, Sergeant King passed away from complications as a result of contracting COVID in the line of duty.

Senior Federal Air Marshal Shawn Hennessee was a member of the Federal

Air Marshal Service for nearly 19 years and spent an additional 13 years serving in the U.S. Air Force.

Based out of the Las Vegas field office, he dedicated his life to protecting passengers and crew from threats to their safety in the skies.

Federal Air Marshal Hennessee passed away on August 26, 2021, from complications as a result of contracting COVID in the line of duty.

Police Officer Edward Contreras served the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department for over 15 years, in addition to his service in the U.S. Marine Corps where he was deployed to both Somalia and Iraq.

Officer Contreras passed away on September 28, 2021, from complications as a result of contracting COVID in the line of duty.

Special U.S. Deputy Marshal Jose Gomez was a United States Marine Corps Reserve veteran who served with the United States Marshals Service for 22 years.

While serving at the Lloyd D. George Courthouse in Las Vegas, Special Deputy Gomez contracted COVID-19 in the line of duty and passed away on February 6, 2022.

This was a cruel disease that took away many of our very brave frontline law enforcement and emergency responders.

Detective Justin Terry humbly served in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department for nearly 21 years and was committed to protecting children in the community from sexual assault and abuse.

A sworn task force officer with the U.S. Marshals Office, Detective Terry passed away on June 10, 2022, after a tragic accident in the northwest valley.

Police Officer Truong Thai was proud to be a Vietnamese-American officer in Las Vegas. A 23-year veteran of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, he dedicated his time on patrol and served in the financial crimes unit and mentored countless new recruits.

On October 13, 2022, Officer Thai was shot and killed while responding to a domestic disturbance call.

My condolences are with the families and loved ones of these brave public servants and all of those who are mourning the loss of the 557 courageous men and women whose duty and sacrifice will be commemorated at this year's memorial.

I urge the House to join me in supporting this tribute to our fallen law officers. It is the least that we can do.

Mr. Speaker, I will close by saying that this is a very fitting thing for us to do here on the Capitol Grounds, and I hope that all our colleagues will join Mr. PERRY and me in voting in favor of this memorial service.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I reiterate not only my support but my thanks to

the gentlewoman from Nevada for her support of H. Con. Res. 15. And most importantly, for my thanks and support for the men and women who put their lives on the line each day to protect our communities and families.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 15.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STOP FORCED ORGAN HARVESTING ACT OF 2023

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1154) to combat forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1154

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to combat international trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs;

(2) to promote the establishment of voluntary organ donation systems with effective enforcement mechanisms in bilateral diplomatic meetings and in international health forums;

(3) to promote the dignity and security of human life in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on December 10, 1948; and

(4) to hold accountable persons implicated, including members of the Chinese Communist Party, in forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) FORCED ORGAN HARVESTING.—The term "forced organ harvesting" means the removal of one or more organs from a person by means of coercion, abduction, deception, fraud, or abuse of power or a position of vulnerability.

(3) ORGAN.—The term "organ" has the meaning given the term "human organ" in section 301(c)(1) of the National Organ Transplant Act (42 U.S.C. 274e(c)(1)).

(4) TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS FOR PURPOSES OF THE REMOVAL OF ORGANS.—The term "traf-

ficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs" means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of a person for the purpose of removing one or more of such person's organs, by means of—

(A) coercion;

(B) abduction;

(C) deception;

(D) fraud;

(E) abuse of power or a position of vulnerability; or

(F) transfer of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over a person described in the matter preceding subparagraph (A).

SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO DENY OR REVOKE PASSPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State may refuse to issue a passport to any individual who has been convicted of an offense under section 301 of the National Organ Transplant Act (42 U.S.C. 274e) and is subject to imprisonment or parole or other supervised release as the result of such conviction if such individual, in the commission of such an offense, used a passport or crossed an international border.

(b) REVOCATION.—The Secretary of State may revoke a passport previously issued to any individual described in subsection (a).

SEC. 5. REPORTS ON FORCED ORGAN HARVESTING AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS FOR PURPOSES OF THE REMOVAL OF ORGANS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 116 (22 U.S.C. 2151n), by adding at the end the following:

"(h) FORCED ORGAN HARVESTING AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS FOR PURPOSES OF THE REMOVAL OF ORGANS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The report required by subsection (d) shall include an assessment of forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs in each foreign country.

"(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) FORCED ORGAN HARVESTING.—The term 'forced organ harvesting' means the removal of one or more organs from a person by means of coercion, abduction, deception, fraud, or abuse of power or a position of vulnerability.

"(B) ORGAN.—The term 'organ' has the meaning given the term 'human organ' in section 301(c)(1) of the National Organ Transplant Act (42 U.S.C. 274e(c)(1)).

"(C) TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS FOR PURPOSES OF THE REMOVAL OF ORGANS.—The term 'trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs' means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of a person for the purpose of removing one or more of such person's organs, by means of—

"(i) coercion;

"(ii) abduction;

"(iii) deception;

"(iv) fraud;

"(v) abuse of power or a position of vulnerability; or

"(vi) transfer of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over a person described in the matter preceding clause (i)."; and

(2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304)—

(A) by redesignating the second subsection (i) (relating to child marriage status) as subsection (j); and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(k) FORCED ORGAN HARVESTING AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS FOR PURPOSES OF THE REMOVAL OF ORGANS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The report required by subsection (b) shall include an assessment of forced organ harvesting and trafficking in

persons for purposes of the removal of organs in each foreign country.

“(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms ‘forced organ harvesting’, ‘organ’, and ‘trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs’ have the meanings given those terms in section 116(h)(2).”

SEC. 6. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FORCED ORGAN HARVESTING OR TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS FOR PURPOSES OF THE REMOVAL OF ORGANS.

(a) LIST REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a list of each person that the President determines funds, sponsors, or otherwise facilitates forced organ harvesting or trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs.

(b) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The President shall impose the following sanctions with respect to a person on the list required by subsection (a):

(1) PROPERTY BLOCKING.—The President shall exercise all of the powers granted by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of the person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) ALIENS INADMISSIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—In the case of an individual, that individual is—

- (i) inadmissible to the United States;
- (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and
- (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of the individual shall be revoked, regardless of when such visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under clause (i) shall—

- (I) take effect immediately; and
- (II) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the individual's possession.

(c) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions under subsection (b)(1) shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term “good” means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Subsection (b)(2) shall not apply to the admission of an individual if the admission of the individual is necessary to comply with United States obligations under the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, under the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967, or under other applicable international agreements or treaties.

(3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions under this section may not be imposed with respect to transactions or the facilitation of transactions for—

(A) the sale of agricultural commodities, food, or medicine;

(B) the provision of vital humanitarian assistance;

(C) financial transactions relating to vital humanitarian assistance or for vital humanitarian purposes; or

(D) transporting goods or services that are necessary to carry out operations relating to vital humanitarian assistance.

(4) WAIVER.—The President may, on a case-by-case basis and for periods not to exceed 180 days each, waive the application of sanctions or restrictions imposed with respect to a person under this section if the President certifies to the appropriate committees of Congress not later than 15 days before such waiver is to take effect that the waiver is vital to the national security interests of the United States.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this section or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “person”—

(A) means an individual or entity; and

(B) includes a non-state actor (as such term is defined in Public Law 114-281); and

(2) the term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, every year under General Secretary Xi Jinping and his Chinese Communist Party, between 60,000 to 100,000 young victims, average age 28, are murdered in cold blood to steal their organs.

These crimes against humanity are unimaginably cruel. Ethnic groups tar-

geted for this mass harvesting include Uyghurs who suffer from Xi Jinping's ongoing genocide and the Falun Gong, whose peaceful meditation and exercise practices and exceptional good health make their organs highly desirable.

The Chinese Communist Party has declared them to be an evil cult fit for butchering.

Mr. Speaker, in May of last year, I chaired an absolutely chilling congressional hearing at the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission titled “Forced Organ Harvesting in China: Examining the Evidence.”

The China Tribunal, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice—and this is the man who prosecuted Slobodan Milosevic at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, a tribunal that I worked very hard on and was very supportive of, as were other Members of this body—conducted the world's first independent legal analysis of forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience in China.

Sir Geoffrey Nice testified at my hearing and said, “Forced organ harvesting has been committed for years throughout China on a significant scale,” and he said that “. . . Falun Gong practitioners have been one—and probably the main—source of organ supply.”

He said the Falun Gong and the Uyghurs in the PRC each qualify as a “group” for purposes of the crime of genocide.

Ethan Gutmann, Senior Research Fellow in China Studies, Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, testified that the Kilgour-Matass-Gutmann report of 2016 estimated China's total transplant volume—this is forced transplantations—at 60,000 to 100,000 annually.

Mr. Gutmann also pointed out “. . . at any given time since 2017, there are approximately a million Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz and Hui in the camps.” These are the concentration camps, of course, made up mostly of Muslims.

□ 1715

He said his estimate is that 25,000 to 50,000 camp detainees are being harvested every year. Again, he says 28-year-olds from the Xinjiang camps can be harvested for two or three organs each, translating into a maximum of about 150,000 organs.

Another expert witness who testified at our hearing, Matthew Robertson of the Australian National University, co-authored with Dr. Jacob Lavee an examination of Chinese medical journal articles and found that “71 papers gave explicit descriptions of surgeons appearing to violate the dead donor rule while procuring hearts from prisoners. In plain language, the papers appear to show that the donors, who were prisoners, were alive at the time of surgery and were killed by transplant surgeons in the process of heart extraction.”

Their work, published last April in a top peer-reviewed U.S. medical journal,

"The American Journal of Transplantation" provided additional evidence of the People's Republic of China's egregious practices and violation of international standards. These are, again, crimes against humanity.

Robert Destro, the former Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor testified that, "The size and scope of the organ harvesting and organ trafficking market are staggering."

Mr. Speaker, we also know through open-source Chinese language media that elderly, high-ranking Chinese Communist Party officials have received replacement organs from the very people they despise, like the Falun Gong, like the Uyghurs. There is one particular hospital, Army Hospital 301 in Beijing, that excels at this.

While this still shocks me, and I know it shocks my colleagues, I cannot say it surprises me.

Almost 25 years ago, I chaired a hearing. Doug Anderson, who is sitting right here, was a part of that hearing as the top staff on the committee. I chaired a human rights hearing with a Chinese security officer who testified that he and other security agents were executing patients with the doctors right there with ambulances ready to harvest their organs after the bullets were fired.

Indeed, at last year's hearing, we produced a doctor who testified that he had performed one such surgery on a victim—he was forced to, he claimed—a botched execution who as he began cutting discovered that the victim was in a state of shock—he wasn't dead yet—a live vivisection on a living human being. He has nightmares to this day.

To combat these heinous and inhumane practices, the Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act of 2023, a bipartisan piece of legislation, amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to require reports on forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs in foreign countries, including and especially in China; and the imposition of serious sanctions on any person the President determines funds, sponsors or otherwise facilitates forced organ harvesting or trafficking for purposes of the removal of organs.

What does that mean? It means civil penalties up to \$250,000 and criminal penalties including a fine of up to \$1 million and imprisonment for not more than 20 years or both. So we are serious about sanctioning this egregious practice.

Sanctions also include blocking and prohibiting all transactions in property and interests in property and making such persons inadmissible to the United States and ineligible to receive a visa.

State-sponsored forced organ harvesting is big business for Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist Party and shows absolutely no signs of abating, which is why we and the rest of the

world need to step up, particularly the democracies of this world.

We must act, and we must act decisively.

I thank Chairman MCCAUL for his cosponsorship and his tremendous leadership on this bill, as well as Ranking Member MEEKS for his strong support. I also thank our Democratic cosponsor, BILL KEATING, as well as KATHY MANNING, for their strong support and cosponsorship of this legislation. I extend a very special thanks to Mary Vigil; Janice Kaguyutan, who is sitting over here on my right on the Democrat side; Piero Tozzi, who is the staff director for the China Commission of which I am the chairman; and Doug Anderson, who has done a wonderful job throughout all of this; and Mary McDermott Noonan, my chief of staff, all who have worked so diligently in such a cooperative and bipartisan way to bring this piece of legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, March 17, 2023.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1154, the "Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act of 2023," so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, March 15, 2023.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I write regarding H.R. 1154, the "Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act of 2023." Provisions of this bill fall within the Judiciary Committee's Rule X jurisdiction, and I appreciate that you consulted with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee agrees that it shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee takes this action with the understanding that forgoing further consideration of this measure does not in any way alter the Committee's jurisdiction or waive any future jurisdictional claim over these provisions or their subject matter. We also reserve the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees in the event of a conference with the Senate involving this measure or similar legislation.

I ask that you please insert this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 1154 on the House floor. I appreciate the cooperative manner in which our committees have worked on this matter, and I look forward to working collaboratively in the future on matters of shared jurisdiction. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JIM JORDAN,
Chairman.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 1154.

This is a measure authored by Representative CHRIS SMITH, who is the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations of which I am the ranking member. He has been a long-time leader in this body on human rights challenges, and I am glad to be supporting this measure today. I look forward to continuing to work with Representative SMITH to address many important global human rights challenges in the coming months on our subcommittee.

I also thank Representative KEATING, the Democratic co-lead of this measure, for working across the aisle to refine this bill and make it bipartisan.

According to the State Department's 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, there have been troubling reports regarding the PRC "forcibly harvesting organs from prisoners of conscience, including religious and spiritual adherents."

This is beyond the pale and absolutely unacceptable. It is important, therefore, that the State Department look more deeply into this issue.

H.R. 1154 shines a light on this horrible practice and calls on the State Department to make its annual reporting on the issue more robust and in depth. Not only does it call for more regular assessments of the problem, it also imposes sanctions on individuals that are involved in forced organ harvesting and trafficking.

This legislation will make sure that the United States is carefully gathering all of the facts to make an informed assessment regarding the magnitude and prevalence of this problem.

We should never look away from injustice and repression wherever it takes place. In that spirit, I support this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1154 is an important, bipartisan measure. We know that organ harvesting has been a problem in China. We also know that PRC officials in Xinjiang have collected biometric data from Uyghur and other ethnic minority detainees. Given the ongoing genocide in Xinjiang, we simply cannot take Beijing at its word

about what it is and is not doing. We need to investigate, and we need to verify.

H.R. 1154 does just that. It calls on the State Department to provide important information to Congress, to the American public, as well as to the world about the scope of organ harvesting and trafficking around the world so that we may respond appropriately.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

I thank Ms. WILD for her strong support and for her wonderful and strong remarks today in favor of this bipartisan legislation.

I do believe that we are really at a point now where if not us, who? We need to speak, and we need to speak boldly. This legislation, again, was crafted across the aisle. We have worked very closely together on it. I believe this legislation will make a huge difference.

Not so long ago I was in the intensive care unit. I am fine now, but when I was lying there, I kept thinking about this bill and some poor 28-year-old in the People's Republic of China who is not there being treated in a benign way by doctors and nurses but is being strapped down—not always anesthetized sufficiently—to steal their organs and to kill them.

It is happening—as I indicated earlier, and this is a very reliable number—between 60 to 100,000 times against 60 to 100,000 20-year-olds each and every year.

This is Nazi-like.

Xi Jinping needs to be held accountable. The fact that he and the high officials of the Chinese Communist Party are benefiting not just with unbelievable amounts of money for the Chinese Communist Party and for them personally, but also, if they need any organ, they turn to the very people that they hate, especially Falun Gong and Muslim Uyghurs, in order to procure their organs.

This must get strong support from this body, strong support from the Senate, and I believe it will be signed by the President if we can get it to his desk.

We need to make a difference.

Again, I urge Members to vote “yes,” and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1154.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PRC IS NOT A DEVELOPING COUNTRY ACT

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1107) to direct the Secretary of State to take certain actions with respect to the labeling of the People's Republic of China as a developing country, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1107

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “PRC Is Not a Developing Country Act”.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It should be the policy of the United States—

(1) to oppose the labeling or treatment of the People's Republic of China as a developing country in any treaty or other international agreement to which the United States is a party;

(2) to oppose the labeling or treatment of the People's Republic of China as a developing country in each international organization of which the United States is a member; and

(3) to pursue the labeling or treatment of the People's Republic of China as an upper middle income country, high income country, or developed country in each international organization of which the United States is a member.

SEC. 3. REPORT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report identifying all current treaty negotiations in which—

(1) the proposed treaty develops different standards for the enforcement of the treaty based on the development status of the member states of the treaty; and

(2) the People's Republic of China is under consideration for becoming a party to the treaty.

SEC. 4. MECHANISMS FOR CHANGING THE DEVELOPMENT STATUS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In any international organization of which the United States and the People's Republic of China are both current member states, the Secretary, in coordination with the heads of other Federal agencies and departments as needed, shall pursue—

(1) changing the status of the People's Republic of China from developing country to upper middle income country, high income country, or developed country if a mechanism exists in such organization to make such a change in status;

(2) proposing the development of a mechanism described in paragraph (1) to change the status of the People's Republic of China in such organization from developing country to developed country; or

(3) regardless of efforts made pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2), working to ensure that the People's Republic of China does not receive preferential treatment or assistance within the organization as a result of it having the status of a developing country.

(b) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of subsection (a) with respect to any international organization if the President notifies the appropriate committees of Congress, not later than 10 days before the date on which the waiver shall take effect, that such a waiver is in the national interests of the United States.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), who chairs the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Indo-Pacific and is the author of this important legislation.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CHRIS SMITH for yielding me the time.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1107, the PRC Is Not a Developing Country Act. This is a bipartisan bill I introduced with my colleague GERRY CONNOLLY to address the People's Republic of China's exploitation of its status as a developing country in treaties and in international organizations.

The People's Republic of China is the world's second largest economy, accounting for 18.6 percent of the global economy. Their economy size is second only to the United States. The United States is treated as a developed country, and so should the PRC. The United States is also treated as a high-income country in treaties and international organizations, so China should also be treated as a developed country.

However, the PRC is still classified as a developing country, and they are using this status to game the system and hurt countries that are truly in need.

The PRC exploits their developing country status by applying for development assistance and loans from international organizations, despite spending trillions on infrastructure projects in developing countries as part of the debt trap diplomacy scheme known as the Belt and Road Initiative. In fact,

PRC's withdrawal of loans takes away from actual developing countries and helps the PRC finance its Belt and Road program.

We are long overdue to level the playing field. This legislation rights this wrong by requiring the Secretary of State to oppose the labeling or treatment of the PRC as a developing country in any international organization or treaty to which the United States is a party.

□ 1730

It also directs the Secretary to seek mechanisms in international organizations to change the status of the PRC from a developing to developed country.

We cannot let the PRC continue exploiting countries in need and take unfair advantage of international treaties and organizations. It is time that we give developing countries a better chance at participating in programs that are meant for them and not meant for the world's second-largest economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes."

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 1107.

Mr. Speaker, the People's Republic of China, PRC, is the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases in the entire world. Yet, for too long, it has shirked its responsibility to do more to combat climate change on the world stage. The PRC does this by seeking and securing the status of a "developing country" in international treaties and organizations, despite being the world's second-largest economy.

This kind of special treatment needs to stop. China needs to pay its fair share to fight global challenges.

That is why I stand here today to support the bipartisan measure by my colleagues Representative YOUNG KIM and Representative GERRY CONNOLLY.

H.R. 1107 calls on the State Department to work diplomatically within all relevant international organizations and treaties where China is treated as a developing nation to change its status. It is time that the PRC should be ascribed the responsibilities commensurate with its global impact and power.

The bill also ensures that U.S. diplomats will work to create mechanisms to consider such a change if they do not already exist. Most importantly, it will authorize our diplomats to work to ensure that the PRC is not getting special treatment regardless of the status it has.

Right now, China gets to have its cake and eat it, too. It is bolstering its influence and presence in international organizations and treaties, all the while avoiding having to contribute its appropriate share to solving global problems.

The PRC claims it is a responsible global power. This bill aims to hold it accountable by asking it to accept greater burden-sharing for global problems. This is an important measure.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the United States and other developed nations of the world need to stop underwriting the belligerent expansion of the Chinese Communist Party's influence around the world.

Since 1978, the economy of the People's Republic of China has reportedly grown 9 percent a year on average. Today, the PRC is the world's second-largest economy and is a top goods exporter. Look at our balance of trade. Its outward direct investment exceeds that of 32 of the 36 OECD countries, and China's defense expenditures and number of satellites in space are second in the world, only behind the United States.

That is why it is ridiculous that the PRC is still considered a developing country by international financial institutions, or IFIs, and in various treaty provisions intended to benefit genuinely poor nations. That designation allows the PRC to pay less in United Nations dues and assessments; it allows them to avoid stricter requirements in certain environmental agreements; and it allows the PRC to get preferential loans from international financial institutions, which the PRC then uses to offer predatory and unfair loans to actual developing countries, countries such as Sri Lanka, Djibouti, and Uganda, which have been placed into debt bondage by the PRC, often accompanied by bribery and corruption of local officials.

This is just one way the PRC distorts the global economy through unfair trade and lending practices while hurting countries that are actually still genuinely developing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from California, YOUNG KIM, who chairs the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific, for introducing this bill. It is smart, targeted legislation. I thank GERRY CONNOLLY for his chief cosponsorship, as well.

This legislation clearly states that the PRC is no longer a developing country and that the United States should seek to ensure that any future treaties, conventions, or organizations we are a part of do not treat the PRC as one.

The world must stop allowing the PRC to siphon benefits from other nations by taking advantage of an outdated and inaccurate developing country status.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, March 23, 2023.

Hon. JASON SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for agreeing to forgo pursuing a sequential refer-

ral of H.R. 1107, the "PRC is Not a Developing Country Act," so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor. As requested, the Committee on Ways and Means has been added as a recipient of the report required by this bill.

I agree that your forgoing action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, March 23, 2023.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL, I am writing with respect to H.R. 1107, the "PRC is Not a Developing Country Act." As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions on which the Committee on Ways and Means has a jurisdictional interest, I will not request a sequential referral on this measure.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 1107.

Sincerely,

JASON SMITH,
Chairman.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1107 is an important bipartisan measure that calls out the People's Republic of China for failing to do its part in international organizations and treaties and calls on it to do more.

At the same time, the diplomatic actions that this measure calls for highlight just how critical it is that the United States remain engaged and present in international and multilateral forums and treaties.

We can only shape global decisions for the benefit of U.S. interests and can only counter the PRC if we are in the room. We have to negotiate and engage in diplomacy to advance our interests. Otherwise, as we have seen repeatedly, when the United States is absent or silent, China immediately swoops in to drive the international policy conversation and agenda in the direction it wants.

I support this bipartisan measure because it deepens both U.S. engagement

in international treaties and organizations while trying to effectively counter the PRC's own self-interested actions in these forums.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me and support this important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I urge unanimous support by this body for this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1107, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

UNDERSEA CABLE CONTROL ACT

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1189) to require the development of a strategy to eliminate the availability to foreign adversaries of goods and technologies capable of supporting undersea cables, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1189

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Undersea Cable Control Act".

SEC. 2. STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE THE AVAILABILITY TO FOREIGN ADVERSARIES OF GOODS AND TECHNOLOGIES CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING UNDERSEA CABLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the Secretary of State and in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall develop a strategy to eliminate the availability to foreign adversaries of goods and technologies capable of supporting undersea cables consistent with United States policy described in section 1752 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4811).

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of goods and technologies capable of supporting the construction, maintenance, or operation of an undersea cable project.

(2) An identification of United States and multilateral export controls and licensing policies for goods and technologies identified pursuant to paragraph (1) with respect to foreign adversaries.

(3) An identification of United States allies and partners that have a share of the global market with respect to the goods and technologies so identified, including a detailed

description of the availability of such goods and technologies without restriction in sufficient quantities and comparable in quality to those produced in the United States.

(4) A description of ongoing negotiations with other countries to achieve unified export controls and licensing policies for goods and technologies so identified to eliminate availability to foreign adversaries.

(5) An identification of all entities under the control, ownership, or influence of a foreign adversary that support the construction, operation, or maintenance of undersea cables.

(6) A description of efforts taken to promote United States leadership at international standards-setting bodies for equipment, systems, software, and virtually defined networks relevant to undersea cables, taking into account the different processes followed by such bodies.

(7) A description of the presence and activities of foreign adversaries at international standards-setting bodies relevant to undersea cables, including information on the differences in the scope and scale of the engagement of foreign adversaries at such bodies compared to engagement at such bodies by the United States and its allies and partners, and the security risks raised by the proposals of foreign adversaries at such bodies.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for 3 years, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains the strategy required under subsection (a).

(2) FORM.—Each report required under this subsection shall—

(A) be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex; and

(B) be made available on a publicly accessible Federal Government website.

(d) AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall seek to—

(A) establish bilateral or plurilateral agreements with allies and partners identified pursuant to subsection (b)(3) to seek to eliminate the availability to foreign adversaries of goods and technologies identified pursuant to subsection (b)(1); and

(B) include in such agreements penalty provisions for non-compliance.

(2) BRIEFINGS.—The President shall brief the congressional committees specified in subsection (c)(1) on negotiations to establish agreements described in paragraph (1) beginning not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and every 180 days thereafter until each such agreement is established.

(e) ACTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall evaluate the export, reexport, and in-country transfer of the technologies identified pursuant to subsection (b)(1) for appropriate controls under the Export Administration Regulations, including by evaluating, for each technology so identified, whether to add the technology to the Commerce Control List maintained under title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) LEVELS OF CONTROL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In determining the level of control appropriate for technologies identified pursuant to subsection (b)(1), including requirements for a license or other authorization for the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of any such technology, the Secretary of Commerce (in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate) shall take into account

the potential end uses and end users of the technology.

(B) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—At a minimum, it is the policy of the United States to work with its allies and partners to control the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of technologies identified pursuant to subsection (b)(1) to or in a country subject to an embargo, including an arms embargo, imposed by the United States.

(3) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the President, acting through the Secretary of Commerce, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an unclassified notification describing the results of actions taken pursuant to this subsection in the preceding period, including a description of—

(A) the individual items evaluated for controls;

(B) the rationale, including foreign availability and economic impact assessments, for adding or not adding an item to the Commerce Control List maintained under title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, pursuant to the evaluation under paragraph (1) with respect to such item; and

(C) reviews by the End-User Review Committee specified in Supplement No. 9 to part 748 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, with respect to the use of items identified pursuant to subsection (b)(1) by entities under the influence, control, or ownership of a foreign adversary.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(2) FOREIGN ADVERSARY.—The term "foreign adversary"—

(A) has the meaning given such term in section 8(c) of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1607(c)); and

(B) includes the People's Republic of China.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1189, the Undersea Cable Control Act.

What is this about at a higher level?

It is about this: Don't enable our adversaries. Don't allow them to become stronger than us, or to make us reliant upon them, or to catch up to us in any way whatsoever, especially China.

How does this relate to the bill? Undersea cables, if you are not familiar, carry about 99 percent of transoceanic

digital communications—think things like voice communications, data, internet, trillions of daily international financial transactions, things that you don't want China getting ahold of. They serve as the backbone—a framework, really—for the global internet.

These cables enable consumers, businesses, governments, and the military to communicate securely with each other and to access the internet. That is pretty dagdum important.

The United States derives significant benefits from its leading position in global subsea cable networks, which carry the vast majority of voice and internet traffic between continents. However, in recent years, Chinese companies—heavily subsidized, of course, by the PRC, the Communist government—have started investing heavily in owning and supplying subsea cables.

I would say it in this way: Imagine if we allowed, during the Cold War, the Soviet Union to buy up radio component companies in the United States of America and other places. What would things have been like? What kind of danger would that have been? That is the way that we should look at this.

The U.S. has to look at the supply, the ownership, of these cables as another front in our competition with the PRC, where their aim is to supplant, like anything, the United States of America's position.

This is not just an economic issue. The Chinese will steal information. They will make it insecure. They want our transmissions. They weaponize all forms of telecommunications that they can. They weaponize every bit of social media that they can. They try to make these capabilities fit their own nefarious ends.

Do we really think for a second that they would not do the same with undersea cables?

I am not going to be fooled into thinking that. That is why I have introduced the Undersea Cable Control Act. It is a bipartisan bill that will direct the President to develop a strategy to eliminate American technologies capable of supporting undersea cables from falling into the hands of our adversaries, blocking our adversaries' abilities to develop and perfect undersea cable capabilities. It is a critical step for our security.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for listening to my opinions on this issue, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 1189.

The United States faces a strategic competitor in China that, as National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan has stated, "is determined to overtake U.S. technological leadership and willing to devote nearly limitless resources to that goal." This technological competition will have a tremendous impact on our national security and economic interests.

Beijing is trying to take the lead in building the world's digital infrastruc-

ture as part of its Belt and Road Initiative. Increasingly, this push includes a focus on undersea cables, which carry over 95 percent of all international internet traffic, according to a recent Reuters report.

These cables transmit mundane things like emails and Facebook postings, but they also transmit more sensitive things such as financial transactions, as well as proprietary information or government secrets.

It is in our interest and in the interest of our partners and allies that these crucial data pathways are not vulnerable to attacks and espionage, which is harder to do if they are built and operated by PRC entities.

We got an example of that last month when two communications cables that connected Taiwan to two of its islands were cut by civilian PRC vessels, disconnecting 14,000 residents from the internet.

This bipartisan measure by Representative BRIAN MAST and Representative ANDY KIM aims to put the United States in a position to reduce such risks and win the competition over who gets to develop the physical infrastructure that will drive the digital commerce of the coming decades.

□ 1745

H.R. 1189 requires the development of a strategy to eliminate the availability to foreign adversaries of goods and technologies capable of supporting undersea cables. It also calls on the Bureau of Industry and Security to apply export controls on the goods identified in the strategy and work with our partners to ensure those goods and technologies are not being exported to China.

The United States needs to be proactive in the competition with the PRC. This important bipartisan measure is an example of how we can secure American and global interests by using U.S. policy tools in an effective and timely fashion.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill. H.R. 1189 is a timely and forward-thinking bill. The United States is already engaged in a commercial competition with the PRC to win contracts to build undersea cables and create the technologies that power this vital infrastructure. It is important that the United States Government have a proactive strategy to win this critical area of competition with the PRC.

Some PRC companies involved in undersea cable development are actively engaged in helping to modernize the People's Liberation Army as part of China's civil-military fusion strategy. This raises clear national security concerns that warrant the use of export controls to ensure that American goods and technologies are not contributing to that effort. This bill will result in coordination with our partners and our allies to ensure that Beijing is not able to compromise our national security through the development of PRC-sponsored undersea cables.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me and support this important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage us to look at the world in this way: Everything with China and everything with communists is competition. It is competition against America. It is competition against our democratic values, our way of life, the way that we operate, the way that we pride ourselves on freedom. I don't kick well, but I am prepared to kick their ass in anything.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1189.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EDWARDS) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 1154; and

H.R. 1107.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

STOP FORCED ORGAN HARVESTING ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1154) to combat forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 2, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 163]

YEAS—413

Adams	De La Cruz	Hudson
Aderholt	Dean (PA)	Huffman
Aguilar	DeGette	Huizenga
Alford	DeLauro	Hunt
Allen	DelBene	Issa
Allred	Deluzio	Ivey
Amodei	DeSaulnier	Jackson (IL)
Armstrong	DesJarlais	Jackson (NC)
Auchincloss	Diaz-Balart	Jackson (TX)
Babin	Dingell	Jackson Lee
Bacon	Doggett	Jacobs
Baird	Donalds	James
Balderson	Duarte	Jayapal
Balint	Duncan	Jeffries
Barr	Dunn (FL)	Johnson (GA)
Barragán	Edwards	Johnson (LA)
Bean (FL)	Ellzey	Johnson (OH)
Beatty	Emmer	Johnson (SD)
Bentz	Escobar	Jordan
Bera	Eshoo	Joyce (OH)
Beyer	Españillat	Joyce (PA)
Bice	Estes	Kammlager-Dove
Biggs	Evans	Kaptur
Bilirakis	Ezell	Kean (NJ)
Bishop (GA)	Fallon	Keating
Bishop (NC)	Feenstra	Kelly (MS)
Blumenauer	Ferguson	Kelly (PA)
Blunt Rochester	Finstad	Khanna
Bonamici	Fischbach	Kiggans (VA)
Bost	Fitzgerald	Kildee
Bowman	Fitzpatrick	Kiley
Boyle (PA)	Fleischmann	Kilmer
Brecheen	Fletcher	Kim (CA)
Brown	Flood	Kim (NJ)
Brownley	Foster	Krishnamoorthi
Buck	Foushee	Kuster
Bucshon	Fox	Kustoff
Budzinski	Frankel, Lois	LaHood
Burchett	Franklin, C.	LaLota
Burgess	Scott	LaMalfa
Bush	Frost	Lamborn
Calvert	Fry	Landsman
Cammack	Fulcher	Langworthy
Caraveo	Gaetz	Larsen (WA)
Carbajal	Gallagher	Larson (CT)
Cárdenas	Gallego	Latta
Carey	Garbarino	LaTurner
Carl	Garcia (IL)	Lawler
Carson	Garcia (TX)	Lee (FL)
Carter (GA)	Garcia, Mike	Lee (NV)
Carter (LA)	Garcia, Robert	Lee (PA)
Carter (TX)	Gimenez	Leger Fernandez
Cartwright	Golden (ME)	Lesko
Casar	Gomez	Letlow
Case	Gonzales, Tony	Levin
Casten	Gonzalez,	Lieu
Castor (FL)	Vicente	Lofgren
Chavez-DeRemer	Good (VA)	Loudermilk
Chu	Gooden (TX)	Lucas
Ciilline	Gosar	Luetkemeyer
Ciscomani	Gottheimer	Luna
Clark (MA)	Granger	Luttrell
Clarke (NY)	Graves (LA)	Lynch
Cline	Graves (MO)	Mace
Cloud	Green (TN)	Magaziner
Clyburn	Green, Al (TX)	Malliotakis
Clyde	Griffith	Mann
Cole	Grijalva	Manning
Collins	Grothman	Mast
Comer	Guest	Matsui
Connolly	Guthrie	McBath
Correa	Hageman	McCauley
Courtney	Harder (CA)	McClain
Craig	Harris	McClellan
Crane	Harshbarger	McClintock
Crawford	Hayes	McCollum
Crenshaw	Hern	McCormick
Crockett	Higgins (LA)	McGarvey
Crow	Higgins (NY)	McGovern
Cuellar	Hill	McHenry
Curtis	Himes	Meeks
D'Esposito	Hinson	Menendez
Davidson	Houchin	Meng
Davis (IL)	Houlahan	Meuser
Davis (NC)	Hoyer	Mfume
	Hoyle (OR)	Miller (IL)

Miller (OH)	Ramirez	Steube
Miller (WV)	Raskin	Stevens
Miller-Meeks	Reschenthaler	Stewart
Mills	Rodgers (WA)	Strickland
Mollinaro	Rogers (AL)	Strong
Moolenaar	Rogers (KY)	Swalwell
Mooney	Rose	Sykes
Moore (AL)	Rosendale	Takano
Moore (UT)	Ross	Tenney
Moore (WI)	Rouzer	Thanedar
Moran	Roy	Thompson (CA)
Morelle	Ruiz	Thompson (MS)
Moskowitz	Ruppersberger	Thompson (PA)
Moulton	Rutherford	Tiffany
Mrvan	Ryan	Timmons
Mullin	Salazar	Titus
Murphy	Salinas	Tlaib
Nadler	Sánchez	Tokuda
Napolitano	Santos	Tonko
Neal	Sarbanes	Torres (CA)
Neguse	Scalise	Torres (NY)
Nehls	Scanlon	Trahan
Newhouse	Schakowsky	Trone
Nickel	Schiff	Turner
Norcross	Schneider	Underwood
Norman	Scholten	Valadao
Nunn (IA)	Schrier	Van Drew
Obornolte	Schweikert	Van Duyne
Ocasio-Cortez	Scott (VA)	Vasquez
Ogles	Scott, Austin	Veasey
Omar	Scott, David	Velázquez
Owens	Self	Walberg
Pallone	Sessions	Waltz
Palmer	Sewell	Wasserman
Panetta	Sherman	Schultz
Pappas	Sherrill	Waters
Pascarella	Simpson	Watson Coleman
Payne	Slotkin	Weber (TX)
Pelosi	Smith (MO)	Webster (FL)
Peltola	Smith (NE)	Wenstrup
Pence	Smith (NJ)	Westerman
Perez	Smith (WA)	Wexton
Perry	Smucker	Wild
Peters	Sorensen	Williams (GA)
Pettersen	Soto	Williams (NY)
Pfleger	Spanberger	Williams (TX)
Phillips	Spartz	Wilson (FL)
Pingree	Stansbury	Wilson (SC)
Pocan	Stanton	Wittman
Porter	Stauber	Womack
Posey	Steel	Yakym
Pressley	Stefanik	Zinke
Quigley	Steil	

NAYS—2

Greene (GA)
Massie

NOT VOTING—19

Arrington	Cherfilus-	Horsford
Banks	McCormick	Kelly (IL)
Bergman	Cleaver	Lee (CA)
Boebert	Cohen	Van Orden
Buchanan	Costa	Vargas
Burlison	Garamendi	Wagner
Castro (TX)	Goldman (NY)	

□ 1854

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have noted “yea” on rollcall No. 163.

PRC IS NOT A DEVELOPING COUNTRY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1107) to direct the Secretary of State to take certain actions with respect to the labeling of the People's Republic of China as a developing country, and for other purposes, as

amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 164]

YEAS—415

Adams	Cuellar	Harshbarger
Aderholt	Curtis	Hayes
Aguilar	D'Esposito	Hern
Alford	Davidson	Higgins (LA)
Allen	Davis (IL)	Higgins (NY)
Allred	Davis (NC)	Hill
Amodei	De La Cruz	Himes
Armstrong	Dean (PA)	Hinson
Arrington	DeGette	Houchin
Auchincloss	DeLauro	Houlahan
Babin	DelBene	Hoyer
Bacon	Deluzio	Hoyle (OR)
Baird	DeSaulnier	Hudson
Balderson	DesJarlais	Huffman
Balint	Diaz-Balart	Huizenga
Barr	Dingell	Hunt
Barragán	Doggett	Issa
Bean (FL)	Donalds	Ivey
Beatty	Duarte	Jackson (IL)
Bentz	Duncan	Jackson (NC)
Bera	Dunn (FL)	Jackson (TX)
Beyer	Edwards	Jackson Lee
Bice	Ellzey	Jacobs
Biggs	Emmer	James
Bilirakis	Escobar	Jayapal
Bishop (GA)	Eshoo	Jeffries
Bishop (NC)	Españillat	Johnson (GA)
Blumenauer	Estes	Johnson (LA)
Blunt Rochester	Evans	Johnson (OH)
Bonamici	Ezell	Johnson (SD)
Bost	Fallon	Jordan
Bowman	Feenstra	Joyce (OH)
Boyle (PA)	Ferguson	Joyce (PA)
Brecheen	Finstad	Kammlager-Dove
Brown	Fischbach	Kaptur
Brownley	Fitzgerald	Kean (NJ)
Buck	Fitzpatrick	Keating
Bucshon	Fleischmann	Kelly (MS)
Budzinski	Fletcher	Kelly (PA)
Burchett	Flood	Khanna
Burgess	Foster	Kiggans (VA)
Burlison	Foushee	Kildee
Bush	Fox	Kiley
Calvert	Frankel, Lois	Kilmer
Cammack	Franklin, C.	Kim (CA)
Caraveo	Scott	Kim (NJ)
Carbajal	Frost	Krishnamoorthi
Cárdenas	Fry	Kuster
Carey	Fulcher	Kustoff
Carl	Gaetz	LaHood
Carson	Gallagher	LaLota
Carter (GA)	Gallego	LaMalfa
Carter (LA)	Garbarino	Lamborn
Carter (TX)	Garcia (IL)	Landsman
Cartwright	Garcia (TX)	Langworthy
Casar	Garcia, Mike	Larsen (WA)
Case	Garcia, Robert	Larson (CT)
Casten	Gimenez	Latta
Castor (FL)	Golden (ME)	LaTurner
Chavez-DeRemer	Gomez	Lawler
Chu	Gonzales, Tony	Lee (FL)
Ciilline	Gonzalez,	Lee (NV)
Ciscomani	Vicente	Lee (PA)
Clark (MA)	Good (VA)	Leger Fernandez
Clarke (NY)	Gooden (TX)	Lesko
Cline	Gosar	Letlow
Cloud	Gottheimer	Levin
Clyburn	Granger	Lieu
Clyde	Graves (LA)	Lofgren
Cole	Graves (MO)	Loudermilk
Collins	Green (TN)	Lucas
Comer	Green, Al (TX)	Luetkemeyer
Connolly	Greene (GA)	Luna
Correa	Griffith	Luttrell
Courtney	Grothman	Lynch
Craig	Guest	Mace
Crane	Guthrie	Magaziner
Crawford	Hageman	Malliotakis
Crenshaw	Harder (CA)	Mann
Crockett	Harris	Manning
Crow		Massie

Mast	Perez	Stanton
Matsui	Perry	Stauber
McBath	Peters	Steel
McCaul	Pettersen	Stefanik
McClain	Pfluger	Steil
McClellan	Phillips	Steube
McClintock	Pingree	Stevens
McCollum	Pocan	Stewart
McCormick	Porter	Strickland
McGarvey	Posey	Strong
McGovern	Pressley	Swalwell
McHenry	Ramirez	Sykes
Meeks	Raskin	Takano
Menendez	Reschenthaler	Tenney
Meng	Rodgers (WA)	Thanedar
Meuser	Rogers (AL)	Thompson (CA)
Mfume	Rogers (KY)	Thompson (MS)
Miller (IL)	Rose	Thompson (PA)
Miller (OH)	Rosendale	Tiffany
Miller (WV)	Ross	Timmons
Miller-Meeks	Rouzer	Titus
Mills	Roy	Tlaib
Molinaro	Ruiz	Tokuda
Moolenaar	Ruppersberger	Tonko
Mooney	Rutherford	Torres (CA)
Moore (AL)	Ryan	Torres (NY)
Moore (UT)	Salazar	Trahan
Moore (WI)	Salinas	Trone
Moran	Sánchez	Turner
Morelle	Santos	Underwood
Moskowitz	Sarbanes	Valadao
Moulton	Scalise	Van Drew
Mrvan	Scanlon	Van Duyne
Mullin	Schakowsky	Vasquez
Murphy	Schiff	Veasey
Nadler	Schneider	Velázquez
Napolitano	Scholten	Walberg
Neal	Schrier	Waltz
Neguse	Schweikert	Wasserman
Nehls	Scott (VA)	Schultz
Newhouse	Scott, Austin	Waters
Nickel	Scott, David	Watson Coleman
Norcross	Self	Weber (TX)
Norman	Sessions	Webster (FL)
Nunn (IA)	Sewell	Wenstrup
Oberholte	Sherman	Westerman
Ocasio-Cortez	Sherrill	Wexton
Ogles	Simpson	Wild
Omar	Slotkin	Williams (GA)
Owens	Smith (MO)	Williams (NY)
Pallone	Smith (NE)	Williams (TX)
Palmer	Smith (NJ)	Wilson (FL)
Panetta	Smith (WA)	Wilson (SC)
Pappas	Smucker	Wittman
Pascarella	Sorensen	Womack
Payne	Soto	Yakym
Pelosi	Spanberger	Zinke
Peltola	Spartz	
Pence	Stansbury	

NOT VOTING—19

Banks	Cleaver	Kelly (IL)
Bergman	Cohen	Lee (CA)
Boebert	Costa	Quigley
Buchanan	Garamendi	Van Orden
Castro (TX)	Goldman (NY)	Vargas
Cherfilus-	Grijalva	Wagner
McCormick	Horsford	

□ 193

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE DUKE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. George Duke, the chairman and sole owner of Zippo Manufacturing Company.

Started by George's grandfather in 1932, Zippo has become an American icon. From earning the nickname "the GI's friend" to becoming an inter-

national pop culture symbol, this famous windproof lighter transcends generations.

Since its invention, every Zippo windproof lighter has been proudly manufactured in Bradford, Pennsylvania. George knows Zippo's success would not be possible without the local community, and he continually gives back to the place he calls home.

Zippo's most recent investment in Bradford's future is through a generous gift to the University of Pittsburgh's Bradford Campus. Last fall, the campus opened a new engineering and information technologies building, and thanks to Zippo's investment, students are learning in state-of-the-art engineering labs.

This investment provides a hands-on, cutting-edge experience for students, ultimately helping them pursue successful engineering careers in the region and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, this investment goes beyond the walls of Pitt-Bradford. It is an investment in our community and in our future.

On behalf of a grateful community, I thank George Duke for his tremendous dedication to building a thriving workforce in Pennsylvania's northern tier.

ONE VOTE TO BAN ASSAULT WEAPONS

(Mr. LANDSMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a very heavy heart.

As a parent, my 11-year-old son is with me today on the House floor because it is spring break. I cannot imagine the pain and suffering that those parents in Nashville are experiencing.

As a Member of Congress, I can say that this is something that we can stop. It is complicated. We have a mental health crisis, and that is going to take a lot of time, a lot of money, and a lot of energy, but the guns, that is one vote to ban assault weapons, to tell the Defense Department, hey, buy all these assault weapons, these 20 million assault weapons. Give them to the military where they belong, and pass criminal background checks for all the other guns.

That is it. One vote. We are Congress. We can do it with a single vote. We just need more of us.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. JESSICA MILLER MULLINIX

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Dr. Jessica Miller Mullinix, a loving wife and doctor at Candler Hospital in Savannah.

Jessica had practiced as an obstetrician/gynecologist at Candler Hospital

in Savannah for 4 years, building a loyal following of patients, colleagues, and coworkers.

Jessica graduated with magna cum laude honors from the University of Georgia in 2009 and the Mercer University School of Medicine in 2014.

During her time at the Mercer University School of Medicine's Savannah campus, Jessica met her husband, Dr. Patrick Mullinix.

Jessica completed her residency at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia, in 2018 before joining the staff at Candler where she was the first OB/GYN to serve the Pooler area at the St. Joseph's/Candler-Pooler Campus.

During her residency and 4 years at Candler, Jessica delivered more than a thousand babies.

Despite her health struggles, Jessica continued to work full time at Candler, fully dedicated to the many patients that depended on her.

Jessica will be dearly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family.

□ 1915

PUTTING PEOPLE OVER POLLUTERS

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was hopeful that this Congress would be able to work together on bipartisan permitting reform. Unfortunately, it looks like extreme MAGA Republicans are hijacking H.R. 1 to put polluters over people. They seek to silence the voice of the community while doing little to nothing to lower energy costs.

Climate change is real. We need more American energy production across the board. Oil and gas workers in my district know that energy jobs can mean a real shot at the American Dream for working families.

This extreme MAGA proposal won't create all the energy jobs we must to remain globally competitive, but it does do this: It increases the deficit by \$2.4 billion.

We shouldn't have to choose between dirty air and polluted water just to meet the energy needs of the future. H.R. 1 picks winners and losers. The wealthy and well-connected win; workers lose.

I believe in workers. House Democrats will continue to lower energy costs for everyone and give future generations a cleaner, healthier environment because we put people over polluters.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LINDA GREENBLATT

(Mr. MOLINARO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Mrs. Linda Greenblatt, a beloved social studies teacher who passed away on March 18 after decades of service to the Red Hook Central School District.

As a former student of Mrs. Greenblatt, I can attest to the profound impact she had in the classroom. She had a passion for teaching, and her lessons made students excited about history and government.

What I admire most about her is that she saw the potential in every student. She was the type of teacher who would allow students to do a project if they weren't able to take the test. This individualized approach helped students like me to realize their strengths and achieve their goals.

I thank her, as do so many, for being one of the people who got me interested in public service and helped me recognize at a very young age that every person has significant strengths and abilities.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring the memory of Mrs. Linda Greenblatt. May her legacy continue to inspire future generations of educators and students alike.

CREATE A FEDERAL OFFICE FOR GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am furious, angry that three kids died today in Nashville, Tennessee; angry that hundreds of parents had to cry their eyes out today not knowing if their child would come home from school; and angry that we have to live day after day when we turn on the news to see rampant gun violence claiming life after life.

All of this is because of politicians in this Chamber that have been bought and paid for by the NRA, that put profits over people, over human lives, cowards who wasted our time last week passing a parental bill of rights, not giving a damn about the rights of children to be able to go to their classroom without the fear of being gunned down due to senseless gun violence.

It is likely that, at this moment, the next mass shooter is planning their shooting. What will this Chamber do about it?

I filed my first bill last week to simply create a Federal office of gun violence prevention. Three kids are dead today, and every day that we wait, 100 more people die.

I pray to God that there are some Republicans in this Chamber who can help support my legislation to save lives.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BENNO LUENSMANN

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a giant in agriculture in the 15th Congressional District of Texas. Benno Luensmann of Seguin, Texas, passed away earlier this year after a storied career in Texas ag.

Benno was successful in so many different areas that it is hard just to pick one. He and his brothers built their cattle business in Guadalupe County, a company grown from what his son called a beat-up sell barn that became a thriving enterprise.

In addition to his success in cattle, Benno served the community as the local fair president and on numerous local committees. In addition to his community service and cattle business, he was an educator, having taught at Seguin High School and Texas Lutheran University. He also served as a consultant to the USDA and spent time in Asia before returning home.

Benno rightfully received recognition for his accomplishments and leaves behind a legacy in ag and the larger Seguin community.

To his wife, Shirley, and his children, Bryan, Reagan, Yvonne, and Donna, thank you so much for sharing your husband and father with the community. He touched many generations of farmers and ranchers and his local community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ANNIE DAYE

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight some of our unsung heroes of eastern North Carolina, our schoolbus drivers.

Mr. Speaker, our schoolbus drivers go above and beyond when it comes to getting the job done, and Ms. Annie Daye, at Central Elementary School in Jackson, North Carolina, is without exception.

A native of Northampton County, Ms. Daye has been a schoolbus driver for nearly 50 years in the county where she grew up, making a daily impact on the lives of her 40 young passengers.

In addition to being the first person to offer students a warm smile and greeting in the morning, she creates a caring, safe environment where children can feel secure and understood.

Mr. Speaker, we need to do all we can to support schoolbus drivers to ensure every child across the First Congressional District and America has a champion like Ms. Daye.

Let's tell a schoolbus driver thank you. I thank Ms. Daye for her nearly 50 years.

UNLOCK AMERICA'S DOMESTIC ENERGY POTENTIAL

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, American families are faced with historically high inflation and energy prices.

Energy demand is expected to increase by 50 percent by 2050. Gas and oil needs will increase, and they will be met whether it is in this country or other countries around the world that haven't gone all-electric or aren't being forced into doing so.

America's needs for minerals necessary for the defense and tech sectors are projected to grow exponentially.

To meet these crises, an all-of-the-above approach is needed for American energy. Unfortunately, the NEPA permitting process hinders American domestic energy expansion.

For example, it can take a decade to open a new mine in the U.S., while other countries such as Canada and Australia take only 3 years to do the same. There is nothing new under the Sun on what needs to be permitted. Get it done.

The NEPA permitting process is filled with repetitive assessments, lengthy and expensive litigation, and bureaucratic hurdles. It is almost impossible for new energy and infrastructure projects to ever see the light of day, but I think they want it that way.

What? Are we supposed to all live in caves and eat mealworms? That seems to be the direction we are going.

CONGRATULATING VNA HOSPICE OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

(Mr. MRVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the VNA Hospice of Northwest Indiana for receiving a Level 5 status from the We Honor Veterans program for the third consecutive year.

The women and men who volunteer to defend and protect our national security deserve every resource, consideration, and compassionate assistance when they return home.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and a prior local elected official in northwest Indiana for 15 years, I continue to be grateful for so many meaningful relationships with our veterans community. I will continue to do all I can to ensure our veterans receive the care and benefits that they have earned.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the VNA Hospice of Northwest Indiana for this recognition and appreciation of their unwavering commitment to supporting our veterans and all those in need.

THANKING BOB AND LINDA BRACKEN FOR THEIR SERVICE

(Mr. SANTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Bob and Linda Bracken of Port Washington for their 35 years of teaching in New York's Third Congressional District. I had the privilege of meeting them today and showing them around this very Chamber.

Mr. Bob Bracken is chock-full of knowledge, and he taught history courses for Port Washington public schools. His delightful wife, Mrs. Bracken, taught business courses in Great Neck South.

Unspoken heroes like Mr. and Mrs. Bracken paved the way for future generations, and I would like to place their names and legacy in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I thank Mr. and Mrs. Bracken from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of New York's Third Congressional District for all of their invaluable service to our community.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, when I entered the House of Representatives, I was 1 of just 24 women serving in Congress. Today, there are 154 women in Congress, out of 540 Members of the House and Senate. What progress our country has made in recognizing and embracing the equal role of women in all aspects of our society.

This Women's History Month, we have the opportunity to celebrate the success and sacrifices of those who have committed themselves to uplifting women, families, and our society.

Meanwhile, let's also rededicate ourselves to continuing to fight for the advancement and security of our mothers, wives, sisters, grandmothers, godmothers, and daughters.

It is more imperative than ever for us to carry forward the legacy of those who came before us and to do our part to pave the way for future generations. Let us embrace a world where there is no limit to what women can be and what we can achieve together.

HONORING TEACHER OF THE YEAR THERESA MAUGHAN

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise Theresa Maughan.

The East Orange Educator is New Jersey's 2022 State Teacher of the Year. She teaches 10th grade social studies at East Orange STEM Academy, and she is an inspiration to everyone in my district.

Ms. Maughan was born in Belize and immigrated to America when she was in elementary school. In her childhood, she was inspired to teach by her own social studies teacher. She has worked in education for 40 years.

Ms. Maughan tells her students that she tries to learn something new every day, and her commitment to my district's teachers and students has helped her win numerous awards, such as the 2021 Essex County Teacher of the Year.

Congratulations, again, to New Jersey's 2022 Teacher of the Year, Theresa Maughan. She is a great example of how teachers benefit our lives and communities every day.

ENSHRINE WOMEN'S RIGHTS INTO LAW

(Ms. STEVENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise because it is Women's History Month.

I rise because I returned from Michigan on the heels of a Women's History Month event that I held yesterday in Farmington Hills, where I looked the women of my district in the face and promised them that I would return to the House of Representatives to seek to enshrine their rights into law.

Mr. Speaker, I rise because in the second year of this pandemic, maternal mortality increased by 40 percent, and in the following year, the Supreme Court repealed Roe v. Wade.

I rise because four women in Texas are suing for their right to bodily autonomy. Women are standing up and saying that they do not want to be subject to sepsis while trying to give birth to a child.

I rise because, in South Carolina, women will be prosecuted to a deeper extent than a rapist.

Mr. Speaker, I rise because I will not stop until we have enshrined women's rights into the law of this land.

□ 1930

NASHVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SHOOTING

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, a nightmare, a day of horror, and one that prayers and sympathy cannot quash the deep and piercing pain that the parents of these babies in an elementary school, a Christian school in Nashville, had to experience this morning at 10 a.m., and the loved ones of the adults that suffered an untimely death. How long is this Congress going to diddle-daddle around?

How long are we going to be divided over the reality that a 28-year-old who went to the school had two AR-15s and a handgun?

Oh, there is always the talk about the Second Amendment. I honor the Second Amendment, but I do not honor the violence of an assault weapon.

How many more babies can we lose?

How many more stories like Uvalde can we tolerate?

How many more parents, whose children's lives are just going to be snatched from them, are going to walk around like zombies?

It is time now to ban the assault weapons. Ban them now. It is time to address mental health issues in a larger way. It is time for this Congress to come together. It is time to stop the nightmare and to stop the horror.

How many more parents have to cry over dead babies? Ban assault weapons and do it now.

COMMEMORATING BLACK WOMEN AND THE ERA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCORMICK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to coanchor this CBC Special Order alongside the Honorable CORI BUSH of Missouri, founder of the first Congressional Caucus for the Equal Rights Amendment.

For the next 60 minutes, members of the CBC have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people on finally getting the equal rights across the finish line and recognized as the 28th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, 100 years after it was first introduced in the House of Representatives, an issue of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, and all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the incredible efforts of African-American women who have advocated for the equal rights amendment, ERA, throughout history. Their resilience, passion, and determination have driven the relentless pursuit of gender equality and justice for all.

In the 1970s, prominent Black women like Pauli Murray, Shirley Chisholm, Flo Kennedy, and Barbara Jordan were instrumental in advancing the cause of women's rights and the ERA.

When the 28th amendment is finally recognized as part of the United States Constitution, Black women deserve to have significant credit for its passage. Their legacy reminds us of the power of unity, conviction, and perseverance in the face of adversity. Let us not forget the profound words of feminist lawyer and civil rights advocate, Pauli Murray, who testified for the ERA at a 1970

Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. She said, "As a constitutional lawyer, a woman, and a Black person, I can say with conviction that Black women as a group have the most to gain from the adoption of the equal rights amendment."

Let us draw strength from these words of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, who proclaimed in her speech in 1970, "I am for the equal rights amendment."

"This is what it comes down to: artificial distinctions between persons must be wiped out of the law. Legal discrimination between the sexes is, in almost every instance, founded on outmoded views of society and the prescientific beliefs about psychology and physiology. It is time to sweep away these relics of the past and set future generations free of them."

Mr. Speaker, let us be inspired by the words of Representative Barbara Jordan, who said, "The equal rights amendment is a mandate for change. It is a standard by which to measure our future legal and social constructs. . . . The equal rights amendment is for men and women. It is a constructive force for liberating the minds of men and the place of women. It is inclusive."

As we pay tribute to these trailblazing Black women, it is crucial to recognize that the fight for gender and racial equality is still ongoing. The number of Black women in Congress remains disproportionately low compared to the diverse population they represent.

As of today, only 57 women of African-American ancestry out of 12,505 people who have served in this august body have ever served in this Congress, a mere fraction of the total number of Representatives and Senators who have shared and served throughout our Nation's history.

Only two African-American women have ever served in the Senate and none in the Governor's mansion. The Senator is Democrat Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois, elected in 1992, and current Vice President, Mrs. Kamala Harris.

This underrepresentation is a call to action for all of us, a reminder that we must continue to strive for a government that is truly representative of the people it serves. We must also recognize that the fight for gender and racial equality is not limited to the Halls of Congress.

Across our Nation, countless Black women and women of color continue to face barriers in access to education and access to healthcare and access to employment opportunities and access to equal pay.

The struggle for justice and equality is a daily battle fought by millions of women who refuse to be silenced or sidelined in their pursuit of a more just and inclusive society. It is our responsibility as citizens and as leaders to ensure that the voices of Black women and women of color are heard, their concerns are addressed, and their con-

tributions are acknowledged and celebrated.

We must work together to dismantle the systems of oppression and discrimination that continue to hold back so many of our sisters, daughters, and mothers from reaching their full potential. As we continue to push forward, let us remember the words of the great civil rights leader, Reverend Martin Luther King, who said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

Let us then bend that arc toward justice together and make the equal rights amendment a reality for all.

In the name of all those who have fought for justice, for equality, and for the rights of women, let us say amen.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. BUSH).

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise today for the equal rights amendment.

We rise on this historic occasion, on the eve of the birth of the Congressional Caucus for the Equal Rights Amendment, a caucus I am proud to be founding tomorrow alongside my co-chair-in-service, my sister-in-service, Congresswoman AYANNA PRESSLEY.

We rise in the tradition of those who led this fight before us, those whose shoulders we now stand upon: shoulders like Pauli Murray, Shirley Chisholm, and Barbara Jordan.

On this ERA caucus eve, as we near the close of Women's History Month, it is only fitting that we are here on the floor of this U.S. House of Representatives with our Congressional Black Caucus colleagues, because Black women have always been leaders of the fight to enshrine equality in our Nation's Constitution, but we haven't always been in the headlines for leading that work. Today, we are here to declare that the reason the ERA is a priority for the CBC is because everyone in our communities has something to gain from its finalization. Black women, girls, and queer folk have the most to gain. We are here continuing to lead, demanding exactly what is owed to us: equality.

Because, you see, the Constitution, in all its wisdom, guaranteed fundamental inalienable rights, but stopped short of guaranteeing those rights for everyone. Women? We were written out. Black women? Not only were we written out, but too many authors of the Constitution were busy enslaving, exploiting, and extracting the labor of our ancestors for profit and were unconcerned with what was owed to us: equal rights, nothing less.

We need to start by being honest about who is harmed the most when equal rights are not enshrined in our Constitution. We know that without the ERA, the patchwork legislation that we have in place to protect women—including provisions of the Equal Pay Act, the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX, and the Violence Against Women Act—has primarily benefited and made gains for White women. Now

is the time to build on those gains and expand protections for all women and LGBTQ+ folks, all of us, too.

This is our moment. One hundred years since the ERA was introduced in this body, 100 years. This is our moment to finalize the ERA so that we modernize the Constitution and make sure the fight for equality not only includes but centers the people who have been left behind, because we were written out of this document.

One hundred years, and all we are asking for is 24 words. In 24 words, 24 simple words, the equal rights amendment will add to our Constitution that: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

That is it. In other words, this amendment would make the "we" in the "we the people" become "us," all of us. In doing so, the ERA can protect people from gender-based discrimination by simultaneously acting as a vehicle for progress.

We see it here. This is just a portion. It can work to ensure permanent protections, like fair wages, like violence prevention, like healthcare equity, like reproductive freedom, like LGBTQ+ rights, and like much else we not only deserve but are entitled to and are owed. Equality and nothing less. That is what we are asking for.

But we need the ERA, and we need it now, because equality is overdue. Equality is overdue.

I rise in support of the equal rights amendment today, on the shoulders of the scores of Black women and LGBTQ+ people who have toiled on this initiative for 100 whole years, to amplify their calls, calls they made in this very Chamber and outside of it, calls that resonate today even as the attacks against us intensify, calls to publish the ERA now. Publish the ERA now. Publish the equal rights amendment now, because equality is overdue.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable Congresswoman CORI BUSH for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my distinguished colleague.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for his leadership on a very important topic this evening that brings us all together.

I thank Congresswoman CORI BUSH for the vibrancy, along with Congresswoman AYANNA PRESSLEY, in the organizing of the ERA Caucus. It is important that we work together to ensure that the equal rights amendment becomes law.

I am reminded of my entering Congress. I don't know if anyone would realize that there was a statue for suffragette women, women in the early 1900s who were seeking the women's right to vote. Even earlier than that, Sojourner Truth, who we galvanized around, with the National Congress for Black Women, to provide an opportunity for Sojourner Truth to even

have a statue here as an early suffragette and abolitionist.

When I came, the statue honoring women, who fought for women's rights and the right to vote, was in the basement. It was women, Members of the House and the Senate, who had to organize and fight to lift that very awesome sculpture out of the basement, covered by dust, to be able to be put in the rotunda.

We still have work undone, because it was a half-finished sculpture. African-American women argued that they did not have Sojourner Truth in that statue, who was an abolitionist and leader on women's rights.

□ 1945

We did it through legislation, myself and Senator Clinton, we did, in fact, get a statue sculptured by an African-American woman of Sojourner Truth, she now remains in Emancipation Hall, and our task is not yet finished to be able to place her in the rotunda along with the other statues.

I say that to say that this Caucus, this announcement, couldn't be more important, and the reason is because Black women were very instrumental in having the loudest voices; realizing even then that Black women had the lowest hourly wage, Black women were still domestic workers, Black women were not, in fact, equal in many aspects of the law.

Pauli Murray, who I honor; Shirley Chisholm, Flo Kennedy, all of whom I remember and know, and Barbara Jordan, are a few of the prominent Black women who have advocated for the equal rights amendment in the 1970s.

Many Black organizations endorsed the ERA, including the National Black Feminist Organization, the NAACP, and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. A 1970s Gallup poll showed that 60 percent of Black women wanted the ERA. This has been a long history.

There is a long history of activism that Black women and women of color in support of women's rights and the ERA, stated by historian and professor of Africana studies, Dr. Mary Phillips.

Today, Black women still play a critical role in pushing for the ERA. In three States, to recently ratify the ERA, Black women were at the forefront. Nevada Senator Pat Spearman led a successful campaign for the ratification of the ERA in her State in 2017, and Representative Juliana Stratton made extensive floor speeches in support of the ERA in Illinois.

As well, JENNIFER MCCLELLAN led the successful effort to ratify the ERA in Virginia, finally bringing the total ratification of the ERA to 38 States required to become part of the Constitution.

And yet, we did not make our mark. Yet, we have more work to do. Yet, we are struggling to ensure that in 2023 Black women will have equal rights in the court. Black women will have equal rights in healthcare. Black women will have equal rights in education. Black

women will have equal rights in the issue of sexual assaults and rape when women are charged with agreeing or consent, which is not true. Equal rights to be heard. Equal rights in work. Equal rights in payments.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support my colleagues, and really to acknowledge these brave and historic women. I am so proud that my predecessor, the Honorable Barbara Jordan, was one of those who stood regally tall along with the first African-American woman in the United States Congress, Shirley Chisholm.

Of course, who could forget Flo Kennedy wearing those hats. Who could forget feminist and civil rights advocate Pauli Murray, who testified for the equal rights amendment at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in 1970. In her testimony, Murray drew up upon her own experience of race and sex, and these are her words:

"Although my motivation, energy, and effort to meet the highest standards of performance have been operative throughout my life, I have experienced numerous delays in my career, not for the traditional reasons given for the failure of women to develop on par with men in our society (marriage, childbearing, et cetera), but by a combination of individual and institutional racism and sexism—Jim Crow and June Crow."

As a constitutional lawyer, a woman, and a Black person, I can say with conviction that Black women, as a group, have the most to gain from the adoption of the equal rights amendment. All that has been said about the frustration and deprivations of American women, generally because of discrimination by reason of sex, can be said with special force about the position of Black women.

My concluding remarks—maybe she didn't call herself a fighter for the ERA, but Harriet Tubman was a fighter for justice and took slaves out of the Deep South. Her words were this:

If you hear the dogs coming, keep on moving. If you hear the noise, keep on moving. If you see the lights, keep on moving. Because if you want a taste of freedom, keep on moving.

Tonight we stand here for freedom and the equal rights amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a timeline of the equal rights movement.

1840:

Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton are barred from attending the World Anti-Slavery Convention held in London. They decide to hold a Women's Convention in the U.S.

1850:

Massachusetts, is the site of the first National Women's Rights Convention. Frederick Douglass, Paulina Wright Davis, William Lloyd Garrison, Lucy Stone, and Sojourner Truth attend. A strong alliance is formed with the Abolitionist Movement.

1851:

At a women's rights convention in Akron, Ohio, Sojourner Truth, a former slave, delivers her speech, "Ain't I a woman?"

1870:

The Fifteenth Amendment gave Black men the right to vote. The National Woman's Suffrage Association refused to work for its ratification. Frederick Douglass broke with Stanton and Anthony over this position.

1890:

The National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association, merged to formally expand the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). NAWSA focused on enfranchisement solely for white women.

1913:

The Alpha Suffrage Club was founded, with Ida B. Wells as one of the co-founders and leaders, this is believed to be the first African-American women's suffrage association in the United States.

1920:

Three quarters of the state legislatures ratify the Nineteenth Amendment.

1940:

Jim Crow laws such as poll taxes and literacy tests are enacted, designed to keep Black citizens from voting.

1965:

500 activists march from Selma to Montgomery, AL to demand voting rights for Black citizens. They are brutally attacked by law enforcement.

1965:

President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act into law.

2011:

Record numbers of state restrictions are enacted on voting, including voter ID laws and restrictions to early voting.

2013:

The Supreme Court strikes down the heart of the Voting Rights Act by a 5-to-4 vote, freeing states to change their election laws.

The first Equal Rights Amendment was drafted by the National Women's Party in 1921 to enshrine equality for women in the Constitution.

Fifty-one years later, the Equal Rights Amendment won the requisite two-thirds vote in the House of Representatives and passed the Senate.

In 2020, Virginia became the thirty-eighth state to vote in favor of the ERA, but whether the ERA has accordingly been ratified remains politically and legally contested.

Since 2013, Black Lives Matter has been a global social movement advocating against anti-Black racism and state-sanctioned violence, including but not limited to police brutality against Black men and women.

The movement has attracted broad participation by non-Black activists and lawmakers following the police murder of George Floyd.

SUFFRAGE IN AMERICA: THE 15TH AND 19TH AMENDMENTS

During the 19th and 20th centuries, Black women played an active role in the struggle for universal suffrage.

WHO GOT THE RIGHT TO VOTE WHEN?

August 18, 2020 marked 100 years since the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution granting women the right to vote.

However, obstacles like poll taxes, literacy tests and other discriminatory state voting laws would keep Black women (and men) disenfranchised for a further 45 years.

BLACK WOMEN HAD TO FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE ON TWO FRONTS

They were suffragists combating both racism and sexism long after the 19th Amendment was passed.

Women of color were crucial to women's suffrage—it's time we acknowledge them.

Wagner, who is behind books such as *Women's Suffrage Anthology* and *Sisters in Spirit*, has for almost 30 years studied the Haudenosaunee (or the Iroquois) influence on the early feminist movements.

MORE TO THE MOVEMENT

While Seneca Falls is considered the first American convention to focus exclusively on women's rights, the first convention to consider women's rights as an issue was the May 9, 1837, Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women in New York City.

LEGISLATION: H.J. RES. 25

Women have done the work of preserving and defending our democracy for centuries, and it is past time our laws recognize our contributions and the historic role that we have played.

The first time the ERA was put forward, women of color were not part of the conversation. Now, we're leading and working in coalition to advance this priority.

Our resolution will help address centuries of gender disparities in America by removing the unnecessary barriers that have prevented us from enshrining the dignity, humanity, and equality of all people into our Constitution.

We as women have done our job, the states have done their job, and now it's time for Congress to do its job and pass this resolution.

I know how transformative the ERA will be for millions of women and our LGBTQ siblings across this country.

H.J. RES. 25 HISTORY/WHAT THE BILL DOES

The ERA has been introduced in every session of Congress until it passed in 1972 in both the House and Senate.

Congress then placed an arbitrary deadline on the ratification process.

Our resolution would remove the arbitrary deadline imposed by Congress and affirm the ratification of the ERA as the 28th Amendment.

The only thing standing in the way of ratification is Congress passing legislation to remove that arbitrary deadline and declare the ERA valid, since 38 states, making up three-fourths of the country, have now ratified the ERA.

80 percent of countries across the world have enshrined language within their Constitutions that establishes equal rights and protection for women. The United States must do the same.

BLACK WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS IN HISTORY

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

An abolitionist and women's suffrage leader who became one of the first Black writers to popularize African American protest poetry.

Ida B Wells-Barnett

Wells-Barnett was a prominent journalist, activist, and researcher, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

In her lifetime, she battled sexism, racism, and violence.

As a skilled writer, Wells-Barnett also used her skills as a journalist to shed light on the conditions of African Americans throughout the South.

(Isabella Bomfree) Sojourner Truth

Formerly enslaved, Sojourner Truth became an outspoken advocate for abolition, temperance, and civil and women's rights in the nineteenth century.

She challenged the notions of racial and gender inferiority through notable speeches and a lecture tour, including "Ain't I A Woman?"

Her work to help formerly enslaved peoples find jobs and build new lives after the Civil War earned her an invitation to meet President Abraham Lincoln in 1864.

Mary Church Terrell

One of the first African American women to earn a college degree, Terrell helped found the National Association of Colored Women, was a key activist in the suffrage movement, and helped desegregate restaurants in D.C.

Daisy Elizabeth Adams Lampkin

Lampkin spent her life fighting for the right to vote and centered her work around many women's organizations, including becoming the president of the Lucy Stone Woman Suffrage League in 1915.

Nannie Helen Burroughs

A prominent African American educator, church leader and suffragette, Burroughs also helped found the National Association of Colored Women and was a lead writer on injustices endured by the African American community.

Sarah Parker Remond

Born in 1824, Remond brought a legal case against a theater after being forced out when she refused to sit in segregated seats.

She won the case and the theatre was ordered to stop segregated seating.

She became a speaker for the American Anti-Slavery Society and fought for voting rights in the US as well as abolition on an international scale.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE for those outstanding remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am so appreciative that we have male colleagues like you who do see this as a shared fight, and we appreciate your leadership and partnership in this moment.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my sister in service, my partner in good, on so many issues of consequence, Representative CORI BUSH, for your leadership, your ingenuity, and your partnership. I never grow tired of your saying: St. Louis and I rise. I know every time that you say that, St. Louis and those that are the most marginalized, ignored, left out, and left behind are being advanced in that moment—that justice is on the way.

As Black women who have earned the right to be Members of this august body, we find ourselves at the intersection of both race and gender. Some of the most profound and most impactful policies come directly from our lived experiences.

Each day as we walk these sacred Halls of power, we see statues and portraits of White men that serve as reminders of the inequality and the lack of parity in these Halls in our Nation's past and present.

For centuries, the contributions of Black women have been excluded from the narrative and marginalized in history, but not today. Today, there will be no erasure. We will give all the flowers to Shirley Chisholm, Barbara Jordan, and Pauli Murray.

Black women, they believed, are inherently valued, and our equality is a necessity. They advocated for the ERA to codify those truths in our Constitution. Ratifying the ERA is not only about history, it is about the here and now. Black women are still organizing at the forefront of the women's rights movement. Zakiya Thomas, Christian Nunes, Melanie Campbell, and Fatima Goss Graves are community builders and organizational leaders that are working daily to get the job done: Black women, justice seekers, truth tellers, pace setters, table shakers, always doing the work of liberation, even when our own was often sacrificed.

I feel especially encouraged and emboldened that Black women are a part of the multigenerational and multiracial coalition leading and working in an intersectional way to advance policy change.

This Congress, I introduced a joint resolution to finally make the equal rights amendment the 28th amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, but I did not introduce it alone. I was joined by Congresswoman KAMLAGER-DOVE, MADELEINE DEAN, SYLVIA GARCIA, ABIGAIL SPANBERGER, and, of course, my partner in good, my sister in service, and co-chair of the Equal Rights Caucus, Representative CORI BUSH.

When the equal rights amendment was put forward 100 years ago, the coalition was not as diverse nor as inclusive. As a Black woman who has experienced firsthand many of the daily indignities of an unequal society and heard stories from my mother, Sandy, may she rest in peace and power, who throughout her career had to train men who were paid more and promoted over her—I know how transformative the ERA will be for millions of women and our LGBTQ siblings across this country.

It is long past time the Constitution affirms our equality—and our very existence—in the eyes of the law. The ramifications run deep as women face daily sexism, pregnancy discrimination, pay inequities, sexual violence, and persistent legislated attacks on our bodily autonomy.

We need the ERA now. I stand proudly with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, and my co-chair of the new ERA Caucus, to demand that Congress does its job, pass our resolution, and codify the equal rights amendment into the U.S. Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that in short order there will be a calendar one day that will cite: On this day in history, the ERA Caucus was established. I look forward to the day that there will also be a calendar that notes: On this day in history, the ERA was passed.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable AYANNA PRESSLEY for her advocacy. I appreciate her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, to our Special Order Congressional Black Caucus chairman, Congressman JONATHAN JACKSON, it is my honor to stand here with you to thank you for your leadership and for all that you are doing—to be a Black man standing, talking about the equal rights amendment with us as members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, it also gives me great pleasure to be here tonight as the ninth woman to chair the Congressional Black Caucus, standing alongside with my colleagues as we pay tribute to countless advancements, achievements, and hard-fought victories by Black women to advance the equal rights amendment.

Let me just say, what an honor to thank the chairwomen of tonight's Special Order Hour, Congresswoman CORI BUSH and Congresswoman AYANNA PRESSLEY.

You will hear tonight words like Sojourner, truth-tellers, fighters for freedom—that is just what you are. My sister, my friend, thank you for all that you do.

We stand here tonight on the heels of Black History Month, in the heart of Women's History Month, and we do so at such a critical time in our Nation's history. We stand on the shoulders of giants. Heroes who paved the way for the fight for civil rights and women's rights today, for women like us in this room and countless women across the Nation.

Women like Mary Church Terrell, "unbought and unbosomed" Shirley Chisholm, Barbara Jordan, Flo Kennedy, Pauli Murray, Aileen Hernandez who were instrumental in elevating the cause of women's equality in the ERA.

Women like we have heard about already, Senator Spearman to Lieutenant Government Stratton, to our very own JENNIFER MCCLELLAN of Virginia. Black women led the way.

It is interesting when we say: What did it get us? Whose shoulders do we stand on?

It seems fitting for me to say today, as we bring members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority to the Capitol to fight for some of those same rights as they did in 1913 when, yes, it was 22 Black women who brought up the rear of the march for the women's suffrage march.

□ 2000

It is important for me to highlight today, on this chart, nine women have served as leaders of the Congressional Black Caucus, making history fighting for equal rights.

But for that, we would not have, as noted here, Vice President KAMALA HARRIS and Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

We would not have two Black women in America today who are CEOs of Fortune 100 companies—just two.

We would not have in the Halls of this Capitol two women's statues, Rosa Parks, brought to the Capitol by Members—us—fighting for justice, and we

would not have from the State of Florida one of their two statues, Mary McLeod Bethune.

Nor would we have the only woman when we started, in 1971, in the Congressional Black Caucus—no other than Shirley Chisholm.

Nor would we have Charity Edna Earley, the first Black officer in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

We have come a long way, and we could put petitions and posters around this whole Chamber about why we came today.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by saying that I am joining my colleagues to demand Congress act to finally adopt the equal rights amendment into the United States Constitution because, as I love saying, when women succeed, America succeeds.

The late Maya Angelou stated: "Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women."

Today, Mr. Speaker, we stand up with Congresswoman BUSH and Congresswoman PRESSLEY.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank the Honorable Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY of the State of Ohio for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from the great State of New York (Ms. CLARKE).

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois, JONATHAN JACKSON, for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise on this day to acknowledge and thank Congresswoman CORI BUSH and Congresswoman AYANNA PRESSLEY for their unyielding, unflinching, and unapologetic leadership and for leading the charge on the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

I rise today to reaffirm that ever-present need to have this ratification take place, as well as to recognize the tireless efforts and work of Black women on behalf of that mission.

It was more than half a century ago that the ERA first passed Congress due in large part to the efforts in drafting, advancing, and organizing by trailblazing Black women.

With that said, I am reminded of the words written by one of my congressional predecessors, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, decades ago in the very spot where I stand right now. She said: "Of course, laws will not eliminate prejudice from the hearts of human beings, but that is no reason to allow prejudice to continue to be enshrined in our laws, to perpetuate injustice through inaction."

Mr. Speaker, we are tired of the inaction. We are tired of the injustice. We are tired of being tired. So, it is my privilege to join the first-ever Congressional Equal Rights Amendment Caucus in history and support legislative efforts to affirm the ERA as the 28th amendment to the Constitution.

For decades, Black women have continued to pave the path toward ratifi-

cation, and I am proud to see we are carrying on that legacy today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank every woman who has played a significant and substantial role and continues to play their position in this battle and in this fight for equal rights. As the Honorable Marcus Garvey admonished each and every woman out there: Forward ever, backwards never.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE for her outstanding remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank my colleague, Mr. JACKSON of the great State of Illinois, for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Let me acknowledge my colleagues who are leading this fight, the Honorable CORI BUSH from the great State of Missouri, the Honorable AYANNA PRESSLEY from the great State of Massachusetts, and all the women who have held us down in the struggle. There would not be the great strides of African-American men if it were not for African-American women. I understand that, and I appreciate that every day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the tremendous work of African-American women in the continued fight to pass the equal rights amendment, and I thank, once again, Representative BUSH for hosting this Special Order hour tonight.

The equal rights amendment is one of America's most important pieces of legislation. The amendment would guarantee equal legal rights for all Americans, regardless of gender.

The Constitution is an amazing document, and it is amazing how many people were left out of it. The ERA was written 100 years ago by Alice Paul, a New Jersey advocate for women's rights.

There have been several prominent African-American women who have made significant contributions to the Nation's fight for the equal rights amendment.

Pauli Murray was a lawyer and civil rights advocate who wrote the book "States' Laws on Race and Color." Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall called her book the bible of the civil rights movement.

Shirley Chisholm was the first African-American woman in Congress, and she introduced dozens of bills for gender and racial equality.

Flo Kennedy challenged the reputation of African Americans in the media and advertising.

Barbara Jordan was a lawyer and the first African-American woman from the South to be elected to Congress.

Many of my congressional colleagues continue their fight for women's rights every single day.

I am proud to be from a State with a long history of support for women's rights. In 1790, New Jersey was the first

State to enfranchise women in its constitution. Then, New Jersey's constitution was rewritten in 1947 to include equal rights for women—but that was only White women. In New Jersey, equal rights have been the law for 76 years.

Thanks to New Jersey's constitution, it is impossible to take those rights away. That is why we need a national equal rights amendment.

I am so proud of the gentlewoman from Missouri for spearheading this fight. It would keep extremist legislators from taking the hard-earned rights of women away from them.

If you look now at what is going on in this country, there is an effort to take rights away from many people—making it harder for them to vote, eliminating polling sites in minority areas, and not allowing people to get drinking water handed to them from someone else. There is already an assault to turn the clock back.

Is that what making America great again is all about, returning to a day when people don't have equal rights and making sure that minorities have a more difficult time exercising their rights?

Everyone thought that *Roe v. Wade* was the accepted law of the land, and look at where that has gone. It is chipping away at rights slowly but surely.

When African Americans got the right to vote, why was it only for a period of 25 years and then we have to revisit this topic every 25 years: Should we let Blacks vote, or should we not?

That baffles me. That absolutely baffles me. Why was it not just made the law of the land and forget about it?

It is because of times like now that we see what is going on. We are turning the clock back. We are questioning whether or not people should have the equal right to vote.

We are in a very dangerous time in this country. People are arming themselves with AR-15s. Someone is requesting that that be made the national gun of this country.

We are in a very dangerous time, and now an extremist Supreme Court has taken away the fundamental right for women to determine their own healthcare for their own bodies.

Mr. Speaker, one day my friends on the other side of the aisle say that government is too much in your business and your privacy—except when they want to take a woman's right to her healthcare. They want government to be involved in that. They don't want the government to be involved in anything important to them, but they feel that they have the right to determine what another woman does with her body. It is hypocritical. It is hypocrisy.

We must not let the legal rights that women deserve to be taken away from them. That is why we must pass the ERA, and we must pass it now.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable DONALD PAYNE, Jr., for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 18 minutes remaining.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS).

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank the gentleman from Illinois for co-hosting this Special Order hour with the gentlewoman from Missouri. I thank Representative CORI BUSH as well for spearheading the ERA and for working toward this fight for all of us.

I rise today to observe Women's History Month and to reiterate this year's Black History Month theme of Black Resistance.

Since we last celebrated Black History Month and Women's History Month, Ketanji Brown Jackson has become the first Black woman on the Supreme Court; Beyonce claimed the record for most Grammys won in a lifetime; Serena Williams retired as one of the most accomplished athletes of all time; Congresswoman SUMMER LEE became the first Black woman to represent Pennsylvania in Congress; and JENNIFER MCCLELLAN became the first Black Congresswoman from Virginia.

□ 2015

In my home of Charlotte, North Carolina, Vi Lyles made history as both the longest serving woman and the longest serving Black mayor in our city's history.

In Winston-Salem, North Carolina, my friend and mentor, the late Annie Brown Kennedy, the first Black woman to serve in the North Carolina General Assembly, passed away at the age of 98 after a long and storied career.

These women join the legacy of other women we are celebrating here today, the women who helped lead the movement for the adoption of the equal rights amendment.

The equal rights amendment is still absolutely necessary because, according to the Constitution, we are not equal. Just look at the Dobbs decision. Look at all of the legislation from the State to the Federal level that aims, intentionally or not, to tell women what they can do with their own bodies.

Look at the maternal health crisis in America. Even as science, technology, and healthcare make amazing advances, the number of women dying due to childbirth is going in the wrong direction, and Black women have mortality rates that are three times that.

As Women's History Month comes to an end, we must continue to teach the history of women—Black women, indigenous women, LGBTQ women, and women of color—from the halls of our campuses to the Halls of Congress because if you learn women's history, you learn very quickly how far we have come and how much further we have to go.

Each of us have a role in this history. If you learn this history, teach it. If you live this history, make it.

Join me and join us, join the CBC and all of my colleagues in renewing the

push for the equal rights amendment and equality for women not only in the United States but across the world.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable Congresswoman ALMA ADAMS for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. BROWN).

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my wonderful colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus for organizing this session tonight.

I join them today in recognizing the significant contributions of Black women to the advancement of the equal rights amendment.

Of the more than 12,000 Americans who have served in Congress, only 58 have been Black women. Remarkably, despite our historic and continuous small number among the Members of the House, Black women have often been the driving force behind significant policy shifts that have paved the way for change.

Among those achievements are landmark bills like the equal rights amendment, championed by Black women since its inception. A hero of many Americans inside and outside Capitol Grounds, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm was a relentless advocate for equal rights in America. Nicknamed "Fighting Shirley," she stood on this very floor in her first term and decreed that the ERA was destined to become the law of the land. Today, we honor her legacy by advocating for the long-overdue ratification of the ERA.

Congresswoman Chisholm did not stand alone in her fight for equal rights. From educator and activist Mary Church Terrell in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to Congresswoman Barbara Jordan in the 1970s, Black advocates for women's suffrage helped drive the ERA forward.

In recent years, we have seen leaders fight for State ratification of the ERA, including our newest colleague, Congresswoman JENNIFER MCCLELLAN, who along with two Black female colleagues—State Representative Jennifer Carroll Foy and fellow State Senator Mamie Locke—led the final charge that resulted in Virginia being the 38th State to ratify the amendment in 2020.

That legacy lives on, as my colleagues in the 118th Congress maintain and build on the work of our predecessors.

With Representative PRESSLEY's efforts to remove the constitutional deadline for ratification and Representative BUSH's leadership of the first-ever Congressional ERA Caucus, we are closer to ratification than ever before.

I stand in awe of the power, strength, and contributions of these trailblazers and icons, both past and present.

As we continue the fight today, it is an honor to walk alongside my Democratic Women's Caucus colleagues to enshrine the ERA in the Constitution, continuing the legacy work started by the Black women who came before me.

Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm envisioned the ERA as the law of the land

in 1969. She once said she wanted to be remembered as a woman who dared to be a catalyst of change, and she will always be known as just that.

Like our ancestors Terrell, Chisholm, Jordan, and more, Black women will continue to help lead the charge, but we cannot do it alone.

To my colleagues who have yet to join us in championing equal rights, I say to you: Dare to become a catalyst of change with us.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable Congresswoman SHONTEL BROWN for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker I now yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE), the Congresswoman from the city of Los Angeles.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my brother and friend, Congressman JACKSON from the great State of Illinois, for managing this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour and standing with his sisters.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the work that my CBC colleagues are doing as we continue fighting to enshrine the equal rights amendment into our Constitution.

The ERA was sent to the States for ratification in 1972. As we reflect on the 100 years since the ERA was first proposed in 1923, attempts to ratify the amendment each year have faded. What is old has become new again, but the state of gender equality in our country has sadly remained unchanged.

Why all the controversy and why such difficulty in giving women the protection of the Constitution that should have been given to us long ago?

It is 2023. There is no reason that an arbitrary deadline should prevent women from having basic fundamental rights under the Constitution.

Around the country, women, especially women of color, continue to face discrimination in healthcare, in the workforce, in the boardroom, in the schools, and in everyday life.

Enough States have finally ratified the ERA, but it is past time that it becomes an official part of our Constitution and gives every woman in America full protection under the law.

If you support women, you should support the ERA. If you don't support women, stand up and say why you don't think your mother, daughter, sister, aunt, or grandmother deserves equal rights.

My colleagues, Representatives CORI BUSH and AYANNA PRESSLEY, have led a renewed charge to add a 28th amendment to our Constitution and enshrine the ERA into law. I thank them for their commitment to confronting gender equality in the face of disheartening challenges.

The first ever Equal Rights Amendment Caucus is dedicated to this cause, and as vice chair and co-lead of Representative PRESSLEY's resolution, I stand arm in arm with my colleagues as we bring this battle home.

I am going to say this. This charge is being led by Black women. Historically, we are the ones who take up the mantle of equality and fight to not only uphold our democracy but to move it forward.

Abolition, suffrage, civil rights—all of these movements supported Black women even though they were not always recognized for their leadership and courage. A glaring irony of gender discrimination.

I am going to say the names again. Mary Church Terrell, Shirley Chisholm, Pauli Murray, Nevada Senator Pat Spearman, and even our own JENNIFER MCCLELLAN. These activists have led fierce fights for gender equality to uplift Black women and women across the country.

In fact, Pauli Murray once said: "If anyone should ask a Negro woman in America what has been her greatest achievement, her honest answer would be, 'I survived.'"

We must recognize the work of these pioneers as we continue their fight today. The ERA would allow Congress, Federal agencies, and courts to address the needs of women as they relate to pay equity, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment and violence, abortion access, and LGBTQ protections because women are insulted, harassed, demeaned, demoted, and assaulted just for being women.

Enshrining these rights brings our Constitution into the 21st century. We might have been written out, but don't count us out. We will persevere until we can finally celebrate the addition of a 28th amendment to secure equal rights and a better and brighter future for our children and the women that we love.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable Congresswoman SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I first acknowledge and thank our convener, the gentleman from Illinois. I thank the bold and brave women, our colleagues CORI BUSH and AYANNA PRESSLEY who have put together this convening as well. And I also thank all the women on whose shoulders we stand, particularly those who brought an intersectional perspective and urgency to the fight for all women throughout this country, but also adding on to that urgency, a reminder that it is Women's History Month in the year 2023, and yet we pretend to be surprised that a document written by rich, land-owning White men in the 18th century does not protect my rights.

We pretend to be surprised that a document that saw my Black ancestors as property until the 19th century legally does not yet empower people who look like me.

We are oh so surprised that a document that did not allow women the right to participate in our democracy

through voting, let alone the right to have land or a bank account until the 20th century is in need of an update.

Well, I am not surprised. Actually, I am pissed. I stand today as one of the vice chairs, the new vice chairs of the ERA Caucus to demand the obvious need for a constitutional amendment so that our future daughters and granddaughters, mine and yours, are not discussing what we failed to do in the 21st century.

Yes, I stand today frustrated that it is not obvious to all elected Members of Congress that the rights of all women, and specifically Black women, need to be protected. As we are wrapping Women's History Month, I remain steadfast in making sure that our daughters and granddaughters of the future do not have to continue to discuss this.

Constitutional equality is powerful. Women and the States have done their part to ratify the ERA, as we have heard, including our new colleague, who is joining us in the 118th, but now Congress must swiftly follow suit. We must take this action to move one step closer to enshrining the dignity, humanity, and equality of all people into the highest law of the land.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. I thank the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania, the Honorable Congresswoman SUMMER LEE, for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. MCCLELLAN).

Mrs. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative JACKSON for convening this Special Order and Representatives CORI BUSH and AYANNA PRESSLEY for their leadership in creating the Congressional ERA Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the first Black woman to represent Virginia, the birthplace of American democracy and the birthplace of American slavery.

I rise as a former State legislator who led Virginia to become the 38th and final State necessary to ratify the equal rights amendment. It is poetic justice that Virginia was the final State necessary for ratification.

It has been a long march toward equality in Virginia's history. In 1619, when the first women were recruited to Jamestown, it was to make wives to the inhabitants, and their rights were surrendered to their husbands. They couldn't vote, they couldn't hold public office, they couldn't control their own property.

African-American women who arrived in 1619 were considered property and had fewer rights, if any at all.

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence established the principle that all men were created equal with inalienable rights. They didn't mean me.

When the Constitution was developed for we the people in order to form a more perfect Union, it didn't include me.

The Constitution purported to create a government by, of, and for the people, but not for me. Only for White men.

For the past centuries, we have made major progress to secure the blessings of liberty for every American.

We have made that progress thanks to the struggle and sacrifice of Black women who were in the fight from the beginning but were the last to benefit from our work. We were there in the fight to abolish slavery. As you heard, we were there in the fight for women's suffrage, even when we were told to march in the back.

□ 2030

We marched for civil rights in the 1960s, even though we weren't given a speaking role. We have fought, organized, and marched for ratification of the equal rights amendment for over a hundred years.

It is absurd that, a hundred years after the ERA's introduction, women still do not have the same constitutional rights as men.

That is why I am not only committed but honored to carry on this fight in Congress with my sisters in this fight, with Representatives Bush and Pressley in the Congressional ERA Caucus.

Women across our Nation have waited too long for equality. It is our time. Publish the ERA today so that, tomorrow, our daughters don't have to fight the same fight.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative JENNIFER MCCLELLAN, our newest Member, for her remarks.

You heard from our distinguished colleagues about our topic on the ERA, all issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to avoid vulgarity in their remarks.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-636. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Control of Air Pollution from New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards; Correction [EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0055; FRL-7165-04-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AU41) received March 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-637. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — New Source Performance Standards Review for Industrial Surface Coating of Plastic Parts for Business Machines [EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0200; FRL-8515-01-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV23) received March 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-638. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality Redesignation for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Canton, Ohio; Stark County, Ohio [EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0195; FRL-9631-01-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV66) received March 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-639. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Maine; 111(d)/129 Revised State Plan for Large Municipal Waste Combustors and State Plan for Small Municipal Waste Combustors [EPA-R01-OAR-2022-0515; FRL-10220-02-R1] received March 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-640. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Delay of Submittal Date for State Plans Required Under the Affordable Clean Energy Rule [EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0355; FRL-10477-01-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV88) received March 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-641. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Bacteriophage active against *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae*; Bacteriophage active against *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *corylina*; Bacteriophage active against *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *juglandis*; and Bacteriophage active against *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni*; Exemptions from the Requirement of Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0519; FRL-10544-01-OCSPP] received March 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-642. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Modified Potato Acetolactate Synthase (StmALS) in Potato; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0237; 10775-01-OCSPP] received March 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-643. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — EPA Method 23-Determination of Polychlorinated Dibenzo-p-Dioxins and Polychlorinated Dibenzofurans from Stationary Sources [EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0677; FRL-5937-02-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AT09) received March 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-644. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Testing Provisions for Air Emission Sources [EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-

0556; FRL-8335-02-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV35) received March 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-645. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's small entity compliance guide — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2023-02; Small Entity Compliance Guide [Docket No.: FAR-2023-0051, Sequence No. 1] received March 24, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-646. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments [FAC 2023-02; Item III; Docket No.: FAR-2023-0052; Sequence No. 1] received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-647. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Small Business Program Amendments [FAC 2023-02; FAR Case 2019-008; Item II; Docket No.: 2019-0008; Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 9000-AN91) received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-648. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's summary presentation of final rules — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2023-02; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR-2023-0051, Sequence No. 1] received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-649. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Accelerated Payments Applicable to Contracts with Certain Small Business Concerns [FAC 2023-02; FAR Case 2020-007; Item I; Docket No.: FAR-2020-0007, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AO10) received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-650. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category-Initial Notification Date Extension [EPA-HQ-OW-2009-0819; FRL-8794-1-02-OW] (RIN: 2040-AG28) received March 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Ms. WILD, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. PHILLIPS):

H.R. 1801. A bill to enhance the consideration of human rights in arms exports; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee):

H.R. 1802. A bill to authorize the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, to enhance the United States-Caribbean security partnership, to prioritize natural disaster resilience, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. FITZGERALD, and Mr. STEIL):

H.R. 1803. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to define the term natural cheese; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas:

H.R. 1804. A bill to designate certain airports as ports of entry and terminate the application of the user fee requirement under section 236 of the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984 with respect to the airport; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 1805. A bill to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on incentives under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic for the development of orphan drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HILL (for himself, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER):

H.R. 1806. A bill to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to modify the requirements associated with small business loan data collection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HUIZENGA (for himself, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. STEIL, and Mr. NICKEL):

H.R. 1807. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to promulgate rules with respect to the electronic delivery of certain required disclosures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. JACOBS (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 1808. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prohibit discrimination in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KEATING (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Ms. TENNEY):

H.R. 1809. A bill to require the development of strategies and options to prevent the export to Iran of certain technologies related to unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. HILL, and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas):

H.R. 1810. A bill to require the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to issue a rule before deleting or modifying certain small business loan data, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 1811. A bill to expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students and improve textbook price information; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. GALLAGHER):

H.R. 1812. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to reform the contribution system of the Universal Service Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1813. A bill to direct the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to provide information on certain persons under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Prisons to the Mayor of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 1814. A bill to provide grants for fire station construction through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself, Mr. STEIL, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 1815. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide assisted living services to eligible veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. MANN, Mr. LATTI, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 1816. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure campus access at public institutions of higher education for religious groups; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas (for himself, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. HILL):

H.R. 1817. A bill to prohibit Federal agencies from requiring lenders to estimate a borrower's race or ethnicity via visual observation or surname; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Ms. FOXX, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. BURLISON, Mrs. HOCHIN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. EZELL, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HERN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MANN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. PERRY, Mr. POSEY, Mr.

ARRINGTON, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. GUEST, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. BIGGS):

H.J. Res. 45. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Waivers and Modifications of Federal Student Loans"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H. Res. 255. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of March 27 through March 31, 2023, as "National Small Business Workplace Solutions Week"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi:

H. Res. 256. A resolution observing the 29th anniversary of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H. Res. 257. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a "Social Work Month" and a "World Social Work Day"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. SANCHEZ (for herself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KILMER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. WALTZ):

H. Res. 258. A resolution expressing support for designation of a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H. Res. 259. A resolution promoting youth mental health and well-being in a changing climate; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 1801.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To enhance the consideration of human rights in arms exports.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 1802.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; Article I, Section 8, Clause 18; and Article I, Section 9, Clause 7.

The single subject of this legislation is: Foreign affairs

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 1803.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

Food processing

By Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas:

H.R. 1804.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To designate certain airports as ports of entry and terminate the application of the user fee requirement.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 1805.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all laws that shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:
Heath Care

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 1806.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Small Lenders Exempt from New Data and Excessive Reporting Act

By Mr. HUIZENGA:

H.R. 1807.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution; The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The Improving Disclosure for Investors Act directs the Securities and Exchange Commission to engage in rulemaking that would allow registered investment companies to satisfy their obligation to deliver regulatory documents to investors under the federal securities laws using electronic means.

By Ms. JACOBS:

H.R. 1808.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 10, United States Code, to prohibit discrimination in the Armed Forces.

By Mr. KEATING:

H.R. 1809.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Legislation to require the development of strategies and options to prevent the export to Iran of certain technologies related to unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 1810.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution: Congress shall have the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to issue a before deleting or modifying certain small business loan data, and for other purposes.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 1811.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Authorize a grant program to improve access to affordable textbooks.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 1812.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Require the Federal Communications Commission to reorm the contribution system to the Universal Service Fund.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1813.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would require the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to provide information to the District of Columbia government on individuals convicted of felonies under D.C. law in BOP custody.

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 1814.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Fire services.

By Ms. SLOTKIN:

H.R. 1815.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide assisted living services for eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 1816.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure campus access at public institutions of higher education for religious groups.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas:

H.R. 1817.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Prohibits estimation of a borrower's race or ethnicity by visual observation or last name.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H.J. Res. 45.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

Congressional Review Act 5 USC section 801-808

The single subject of this legislation is:

Disapproving the Executive Branch action to transfer student loan debt to the taxpayer.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 1: Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. BICE, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. LATURNER, and Mr. TIMMONS.

H.R. 7: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mr. SELF.

H.R. 25: Mr. STRONG.

H.R. 32: Mr. CASAR, Mr. BABIN, and Ms. CROCKETT.

H.R. 41: Mr. FLOOD.

H.R. 49: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 51: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 53: Mr. FERGUSON.

H.R. 131: Ms. SCHOLTEN and Mrs. LUNA.

H.R. 132: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 303: Mr. CASE and Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 314: Mr. SELF and Mr. HILL.

H.R. 396: Mrs. FOUSHEE and Mr. GOMEZ.

H.R. 448: Mr. TIMMONS and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 471: Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. MANN, and Mr. Rouzer.

H.R. 506: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 513: Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 531: Mr. DUNCAN and Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 536: Mr. NICKEL.

H.R. 537: Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 549: Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. BERA, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. NICKEL.

H.R. 564: Mr. LATURNER.

H.R. 621: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 645: Mr. KILMER and Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 655: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 676: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 698: Ms. BUDZINSKI.

H.R. 734: Mr. BURLISON and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 797: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 812: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 830: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. VASQUEZ, and Ms. CROCKETT.

H.R. 838: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 866: Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 955: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 984: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. FLOOD.

H.R. 1045: Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. TENNEY, and Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 1073: Mr. TORRES of New York.

H.R. 1105: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 1145: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 1154: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1230: Mr. FROST.

H.R. 1247: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 1255: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. IVEY.

H.R. 1279: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 1288: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 1359: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1375: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1384: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin and Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 1385: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 1394: Mr. ARRINGTON and Mr. ROY.

H.R. 1399: Mr. BRECHEEN.

H.R. 1404: Mrs. RAMIREZ and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 1447: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DOGGETT, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1465: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1469: Mr. DONALDS and Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 1470: Mr. TIMMONS.

H.R. 1496: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. CAREY.

H.R. 1514: Mr. BIGGS.

H.R. 1564: Mr. SELF.

H.R. 1581: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. FULCHER, and Mrs. LUNA.

H.R. 1584: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 1587: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 1588: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 1608: Mr. COMER, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SCHOLTEN, and Mr. MANN.

H.R. 1613: Mr. MILLS.

H.R. 1624: Mr. SANTOS, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BEYER, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. TRONE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 1654: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1708: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 1713: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.

H.R. 1716: Mr. GALLAGHER.

H.R. 1729: Ms. CHU and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 1742: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1785: Mr. KUSTOFF and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1793: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 1795: Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.J. Res. 11: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DE REMER.

H.J. Res. 13: Mr. NICKEL.

H.J. Res. 29: Mr. ARRINGTON.

H.J. Res. 44: Mr. SIMPSON and Mr. SANTOS.

H. Res. 8: Mr. COLLINS.

H. Res. 69: Mr. SANTOS.

H. Res. 109: Mr. SANTOS.

H. Res. 133: Mr. TORRES of New York.

H. Res. 191: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mrs. FOUSHEE.

H. Res. 219: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H. Res. 233: Mr. DUNN of Florida.

H. Res. 244: Mr. MURPHY.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. ARRINGTON

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Budget in H.R. 1 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF MISSOURI

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs

Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of Rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MRS. RODGERS

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF PENNSYLVANIA

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Agriculture in H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.



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Senate

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord, our God, we come in thankfulness because You have loved us through the seasons of our lives. We find peace in the knowledge that You know and accept us.

Lord, thank You for enabling us to run and not be weary, to walk and not faint. Continue to keep us in Your care.

Bless our Senators. Surround them with the shield of Your love. When they feel discouraged, increase their faith. Give them wisdom and courage to live each day as Your children.

We pray for those dealing with the deadly aftermath of the Mississippi tornado. We pray also for the victims of the Nashville school shooting.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

REPEALING THE AUTHORIZATIONS FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 316, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 316), to repeal the authorizations of use of military force against Iraq.

Pending:

Schumer amendment No. 15, to add an effective date.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip is recognized.

COVENANT SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, yet another American community is in shock and grief after yet another American mass shooting. This morning, a shooter entered the Covenant School in Nashville, TN, reportedly armed with two assault rifles and a handgun.

This is an elementary school for students in preschool through the sixth grade. The children are as young as 3 and 4 years old.

Upon entering the school, the shooter opened fire, killing at least three staff members and three students.

I cannot begin to imagine what the families and school community are feeling at this moment. We send our prayers and condolences, and we are certainly grateful to the first responders who were dispatched to the school within minutes and ran toward the sound of gunfire.

But, once again, thoughts and prayers are not enough. These mass shootings, especially targeting little children, are happening with sickening regularity in this Nation. This could be the 129th mass shooting since this year, 2023, began—129 mass shootings in America, and we are fewer than 90 days into this calendar year. That is more than one mass shooting a day.

What is a mass shooting? Four victims either shot or killed in an incident.

Last year, Congress took some important steps on gun safety reform with the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization. The Judiciary Committee that I serve on has done a lot of work on those measures, and I am happy to support both of them.

But as today's shooting in Nashville, TN, demonstrates, there is more work to be done. The fact that this is a daily occurrence in America is unconscionable.

We are going to learn more details in the hours and days ahead about what actually happened in Nashville, but we already know what must be done to keep our children and communities safe from deadly shootings. I strongly—strongly—support bills that ban assault weapons from civilian use and close gaps in our background check system.

I cannot imagine the Founding Fathers would even envision what we are allowing today in the name of words that they wrote in the Second Amendment to the Bill of Rights. To think that these weapons—the one that was used in Highland Park, in my home State of Illinois, on the Fourth of July, last year—the man discharged 83 rounds in 60 seconds. Tell me that the Founding Fathers had that in mind when they wrote the Second Amendment. I don't believe it.

Today, the early reports are that assault weapons may be involved again. We will wait until we see the actual facts coming in, but it would be no great surprise if that is the case. It would be a grave disappointment.

I urge my colleagues to come together on a bipartisan basis. We can't say that we have solved this problem or even addressed it seriously when the incidents like the one that happened today in Nashville, TN, continue in America.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S943

We need to pass more reforms to keep guns out of dangerous hands and keep our children safe.

S. 316

Madam President, it is good to be back. I was gone last week, fighting off my second round of COVID. It was not serious, thank goodness. I had good medical care, and my wife had to show a great deal of patience with my sticking around the house for too many days. But I am glad to be back, and I want to say a word about the issue that is pending on the floor of the Senate because it has meant a lot to me throughout my congressional career.

It was just over 20 years ago, in this Chamber, that Congress voted to authorize the use of military force against Iraq. I remember that vote as clearly as if it were yesterday.

It was a little more than a year after the vicious terrorist attacks of 9/11. Our Nation still felt deeply about what had happened to 3,000 innocent Americans.

All evidence pointed to Afghanistan-based al-Qaida as the culprit in that horrific 9/11 attack. Yet, within days of 9/11, some in Washington decided to beat a different drum, not against al-Qaida or Afghanistan but against Iraq's dictator Saddam Hussein.

Then-Vice President Cheney warned repeatedly that Hussein was actively pursuing "weapons of mass destruction," including nuclear weapons. The Vice President was adamant. He said there was "no doubt"—his words, "no doubt"—that Hussein was amassing them to use against the United States.

Former Pentagon adviser Richard Perle argued preposterously that Iraqis could finance their nation's postwar rebuilding from its oil wealth and said he had "no doubt that they will."

And then-President George W. Bush, who claimed war was his last choice, provocatively tried to link al-Qaida with Saddam Hussein, a dubious claim that was naturally echoed by then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

Rumsfeld even tried to claim the war in Iraq would last—listen to this—"five days or five weeks or five months, but it certainly isn't going to last any longer than that." So said the Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld.

Then-Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and Vice President Cheney insisted that Iraqis would be welcoming the U.S. military as "liberators."

When asked about reports that a war with Iraq would require hundreds of thousands of troops, Wolfowitz casually dismissed the warning as "way off the mark."

The American people were summarily deceived and misled by the political leaders in Washington.

Then came the war. It didn't last weeks, as we were promised. It lasted for most of the next decade.

More than 150,000 American troops have served in Iraq. No nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction were ever found. We were never

greeted as liberators. The Iraqi oil didn't pay for the damage of the \$2 trillion cost of the war. American taxpayers paid for it.

More than 4,500 U.S. servicemembers died in that conflict in Iraq. Another 32,000 were wounded, many of them grievously.

My colleague in the Senate, TAMMY DUCKWORTH, is one of those who was seriously injured. It is what brought her to my attention when I invited her to listen to a State of the Union Address. Her heroism brought her to my attention politically. I am honored that she is still serving here in the Senate.

Countless Iraqi civilians lost their lives in the ensuing civil war that erupted after Saddam Hussein was toppled.

I had voted, 1 year before the beginning of the Iraq war, to support the use of military force in Afghanistan. It made sense. They generated al-Qaida, al-Qaida generated 9/11, and it was time for us to answer. That is where those who masterminded the 9/11 attacks were located.

But I was never convinced that our sons and daughters should be sent to war in Iraq. That is why I was one of 23 Senators—1 Republican and 22 Democrats—who voted against the 2002 Iraq authorization for use of military force, known as the AUMF.

History has shown that my concern and misgivings, along with my colleagues—23 of us—were tragically correct. I doubt few here in Washington, at the time, could have imagined this AUMF would still be referred to and referenced for U.S. military action over 20 years later.

Even more incredibly, the 1991 Gulf war AUMF that was supposed to expel Iraq from Kuwait is still in effect more than 30 years later. To allow such resolutions to remain in effect decades after the wars they authorized is more than just a clerical oversight; it is a threat to our national security. It is an open-ended invitation for conflict. That is why today's action of repealing these two AUMFs is long overdue.

I want to thank my colleagues, on a bipartisan basis, Senator TIM KAINE of Virginia and Senator TODD YOUNG of Indiana, for leading the effort. I am honored to cosponsor it.

In the end, the debate before us isn't about whether Iraq posed a threat to Kuwait in 1991 or to the United States in 2001. It is not even about the ultimate merits of those conflicts. This long overdue debate on the Senate floor this week is, instead, about Congress's responsibility when it comes to war and about the use of open-ended authorizations to send military forces. Our Constitution is clear on this question and on many others too. Article I, section 8 says: The power to declare war is an explicit power of the Congress.

The Founding Fathers got that right as far as I am concerned. We should never send our sons and daughters or anyone's sons and daughters into war

without the consent of the American people through Congress. Our Founding Fathers were wise in making sure this awesome power of declaring war didn't rest in the hands of a Monarch or even in a President by himself but with the people's elected Representatives. I have made this same argument in the House and the Senate regardless of who was President, a Democrat or a Republican—whether it was President Bush in Iraq or President Obama in Syria or in Libya.

We should not leave these Iraq AUMFs or any authorizations like them in force in perpetuity. Doing so allows too much room for unforeseen consequences and too great of a chance that the authorizations will be stretched beyond their original intent. It makes the possibility of going to war just too easy. It creates a dangerous disconnect between the people's elected representatives and one of the most solemn decisions of democratic self-government. If some AUMFs, like the one used to respond to the al-Qaida attack on the United States, which I supported, need updating, we also need to meet that responsibility here in Congress.

Let me be clear. Nothing we are doing here prevents an American President from acting in self-defense or in the face of imminent threats to our American Nation. Repealing these AUMFs doesn't preclude Congress from debating and possibly passing another AUMF to address future threats, but repealing these outdated authorizations for the use of force will help make sure that such AUMFs are not used for other possible wars without their having explicit congressional approval. Repealing these AUMFs will close open-ended war authorizations that should be revisited and debated by Congress as required by the Constitution.

I strongly support the legislation before us to repeal these authorizations and to ensure that future AUMFs are not allowed to remain in place. I plan on reintroducing my legislation that sunsets any AUMF after 10 years. If the continued use of military force is justified beyond a decade, Congress should do it expressly by vote and debate so that the American people can be witness to this decision and part of it. We should no longer abdicate our responsibility by relying on a resolution that has long since served its intended purpose.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

COVENANT SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, we are just learning of the horrific, truly heartbreaking shooting at a school in Nashville earlier today—six people, three children.

I still have the pictures of the kids at Sandy Hook—the little children there who were shot dead—in mind.

Well, six people, including three children, were shot and killed in their own school. Six people, three children, won't be coming home today to their families, to their friends, to their lives.

We are holding in our hearts the families of the loved ones, of those affected by this horrible tragedy, and thank the first responders who were on the scene.

ISRAEL

Madam President, now on Israel, I welcome the news that the judicial legislation proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and his government have been suspended. The bond between the United States and Israel is rooted in our shared democratic values and fidelity to the rule of law. When I was in Israel 4 weeks ago, I shared that message directly with the Prime Minister.

I echo the call of President Herzog to find a compromise. It is a good step that the legislation is put on hold, and I strongly urge Israeli leaders, I urge Prime Minister Netanyahu: Come to a compromise before pushing forward again.

Isaac “Bogie” Herzog has the trust of all parties and is the right person to come up with the compromise. I urge both sides to work with him. At a time when Israel faces real dangers, particularly from Iran, the last thing Israel needs is divisiveness at home. Let us hope they can come to a compromise.

AUTHORIZATIONS FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE

Madam President, on AUMF, this afternoon, the Senate will vote on cloture on AUMF repeal, bringing us one step closer to finally repealing the 1991 and 2002 Iraq AUMFs. Once cloture is invoked this afternoon, we will hold a few more votes on additional Republican amendments. Senators should then expect to vote on final passage of the Iraq AUMF repeal as soon as tomorrow.

Repealing the Iraq AUMFs has been a good and reasonable process here on the floor. We had a strong bipartisan vote on cloture last week. We are allowing Republican amendments. Most importantly, we aren't being dilatory because this is something a majority of Senators want to get done.

I hope this can be a method, a pattern of what we do in the future. We are willing to allow amendments, but we must move forward and cannot be dilatory and cannot have amendments so extraneous that they just bog down the whole process. What happened on this AUMF bill is a good model for us for the future to get things done with bipartisan cooperation.

On this bill, I want to thank Senators Kaine and Young, the chairman and the ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and all the

cosponsors of this legislation for their work on this measure.

MILITARY NOMINATIONS

Madam President, now on the hold on senior military nominations, defense readiness is impossible without military commanders in place to execute our national defense strategy. Senators have regularly worked together to confirm routine military nominees quickly, ensuring no lapses in the work of our military. But right now, 160 military promotions—160—these are not political. These are men and women who have worked their way up through the ranks and deserve a promotion to general, to colonel, et cetera. But 160, including five three-star generals, are on hold because the senior Senator from Alabama is holding them up because he can't get his way on blocking 160,000 women within the military from receiving healthcare.

Blocking military choices is unprecedented—unprecedented, hasn't happened before—and it could weaken our national security. And the number of those who are blocked is going to grow even larger as new nominees are reported out of the committee, which they do regularly.

Among the general and flag officers on hold by the Senator from Alabama include commanders for U.S. naval forces in the Pacific, the Middle East, and the U.S. military representative to the NATO Military Committee—something really important at a time when war rages in Ukraine. The commanders of the 5th and 7th Fleets are the commanders of U.S. naval forces confronting the likes of Iran and China. They are being held up singlehandedly by the Senator from Alabama.

It shouldn't have to be said, but the Senator from Alabama's hold on hundreds of routine military promotions is reckless. It damages the readiness of our military and puts American security in jeopardy.

Now, look, all of us feel very strongly, passionately, at times about certain political issues, certainly as strongly as the Senator of Alabama feels about this one, but if every single one of us objected to the promotion of military personnel whenever we feel passionately or strongly about an issue, our military would simply grind to a halt.

The Senator from Alabama's actions risk permanently politicizing the confirmation of military personnel for the first time ever, and that would cause immense damage to the military's ability to lead and protect us. I can't think of a worse time for a MAGA Republican to pull a stunt like this, as threats against American security and against democracy are growing all around the world.

I urge Members of his own party to prevail on the Senator from Alabama to stand down in this unprecedented and dangerous move and allow these critical, nonpolitical, nonpartisan military nominees to go through.

MEDICAID AND THE BUDGET

Madam President, on Medicaid and the budget, today, the Governor of

North Carolina is signing legislation to expand Medicaid eligibility following the passage of a bipartisan compromise through the North Carolina General Assembly last week. Once signed, as many as 600,000 North Carolinians will soon enjoy healthcare coverage previously denied to them.

House Republicans should follow the example of their State-level counterparts and work with Democrats to expand services like Medicaid, not cut them. They should join Democrats to strengthen healthcare for all Americans, not threaten extreme cuts like the House GOP has been doing for months.

In the American Rescue Plan, Democrats passed a major new incentive to get holdout States to expand Medicaid to cover their low-income citizens. We should build on this work.

Now, House Republicans have bent over backwards claiming Social Security and Medicare are off the table, but what are their plans for Medicaid? Republicans have been disturbingly evasive about whether or not they want to cut Medicaid, and so Americans, unfortunately, remain in the dark.

If a moderate State like North Carolina is expanding Medicaid with bipartisan support, what the heck are MAGA Republicans doing threatening to cut it? It shows how difficult it will be for House Republicans to put together a plan that gets 218 votes.

So we repeat: Leader MCCARTHY, today is March 27. It is nearly 3 months. Where is your plan? Is Medicaid on the GOP chopping block? Are the MAGA Republicans pulling the Republican Party here in the House further to the right even as North Carolina, a moderate State, in a bipartisan way passes legislation to expand Medicaid? Will tens of millions of Americans find out that their benefits will be curtailed or eliminated?

Let me say again, instead of obsession about ideological spending cuts that harm millions of people, Republicans should work with Democrats to strengthen vital healthcare services. We should do that while also agreeing to lift the debt ceiling together, without brinksmanship or blackmail or hostage-taking.

STUDENT DEBT

Madam President, on student debt, this morning, House Republicans introduced legislation to overturn President Biden's historic student loan debt relief program, denying millions of Americans the critical student debt relief they need.

It is hard to believe that, at a time when millions of Americans are struggling with student debt, Republicans are showing how callous and uncaring they are by trying to block debt relief that will literally transform the lives of so many for the better.

Republicans have tried to paint President Biden's plan as a tuition bailout and a giveaway to high earners. A giveaway to high earners? Republicans ignore the facts.

Under President Biden's plan, 90 percent—nearly 90 percent of relief dollars would go to out-of-school borrowers making less than \$75,000 a year. This is a party that cuts taxes on the very wealthy but then says that this is a bailout and a giveaway to high earners, when 90 percent of the people who get it—nearly 90 percent—make less than \$75,000 a year? Who are they kidding? What hypocrisy.

Under President Biden's plan, no one in the top 5 percent of incomes will receive a penny in debt relief, even though Republicans were happy to give them huge tax breaks a few years back and still want to do that.

Rather than help the privileged few, President Biden's plan would benefit Americans who need it most: students of color, poor Americans, children of immigrants, working and middle-class families. These are the people who would suffer from the Republicans' terrible proposal.

H.R. 1

Madam President, on H.R. 1—I have a lot to talk about today—Republicans recently rolled out their partisan, unserious, so-called energy package they dubbed “H.R. 1.” Let's call H.R. 1 what it is: a wish list for Big Oil masquerading as an energy package.

Republicans' so-called energy package would gut important environmental safeguards on fossil fuel projects. It would lock Americans into expensive, erratic, and dirty energy sources. It omits long-overdue reforms for accelerating the construction of transmission.

A serious package would help America transition to clean, affordable energy, not set us decades back like the Republican proposal. A serious energy package would include transmission to help bring clean energy projects online, not leave it untouched—untouched—even though everyone agrees transmission is needed, but the Republican proposal doesn't mention it.

So let me make it again very clear. House Republicans' so-called energy bill is dead on arrival in the U.S. Senate. We will work in good faith on real permitting reform talks—bipartisan, bicameral—but this proposal is a non-starter.

VLADIMIR PUTIN

Madam President, finally, on the GOP embrace—the embrace of some—of Putin, yesterday, reports came out that Vladimir Putin announced Moscow would deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus as well as position nuclear-armed Iskander hypersonic missiles within Belarus, with a range of 300 miles.

In the past, Putin's conduct over the last year would have won swift and unequivocal condemnation from both parties, but today, an increasingly vocal minority within the hard right is more comfortable defending and excusing Putin rather than condemning him. One Republican Governor from a Southern State even referred to the Ukraine war as “a territorial dispute.”

I have to wonder what he would have said if he were around in the 1930s. We know what happened then when many refused to stand up to aggression. A world war resulted.

This isn't hard. Vladimir Putin is a threat to American national security and democracy, and MAGA Republicans who fail to condemn him are only empowering him in the long run.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

FIRE GRANTS AND SAFETY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 28, S. 870.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 870) to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 28, S. 870, a bill to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Christopher Murphy, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tina Smith, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz, Jeanne Shaheen, Jeff Merkley, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Mazie Hirono, Cory A. Booker, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Alex Padilla.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, March 27, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, just to inform the Members, I am moving to file cloture on this bill, which would make sure that both the SAFER grants and the AFG grants, which protect and help our paid and volunteer firefighters, continue. It expires in a few months if we do nothing.

Our firefighters, both paid and volunteer, are brave; they risk their lives for us; they run to danger, not away from it; and they need both equipment and personnel so that they can continue to do their jobs, particularly in smaller, more rural, and more suburban areas where there is not the tax base to support the stuff that they need. So I hope we can move forward quickly on this legislation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

S. 316

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, this week, the Senate is expected to vote on legislation that would repeal the authorization for use of military force in Iraq.

The bill before the Senate would repeal two separate authorizations—one from 1991, which authorized U.S. intervention in Iraq, better known as the Gulf war, to stop the dictator, Saddam Hussein, from invading and terrorizing Kuwait. The second one passed in 2002 in response to Saddam's persistent violations of the peace agreement that came out of the Gulf war, including intelligence that he was pursuing weapons of mass destruction.

In the decades since these authorizations passed, America's relationship with Iraq has changed dramatically. Iraq has gone from a hostile and unpredictable authoritarian government to become a strategic partner with the United States. In recent years, our countries have worked together to end the occupation of ISIS in Iraq.

In December of 2017, Iraq declared victory, though we have seen a resurgence of some of those terrorists recently. Two years ago, President Biden welcomed the Iraqi Prime Minister to the White House, a friendship that would have been unimaginable 20 or 30 years ago.

Put simply, Iraq is a key partner in the Middle East. Our governments and militaries cooperate to promote security and prosperity for the Iraqi people. More broadly, we work together to counter Iran's malign influence and continue to root out terrorism in the Middle East.

While there is still an American military presence in Iraq, it looks dramatically different today than it did 10, 20, or 30 years ago. Today, our soldiers serve solely in an advise and assist role. They are there at the invitation of the Iraqi Government to support Iraqi troops and military leaders as they defend their own security interests.

In short, American forces are no longer there to counter threats from Iraq. We are now there to counter threats to Iraq. That includes threats from Iran, the No. 1 state sponsor of international terrorism, with its hired henchmen, terrorist groups, or other adversaries that could disrupt peace and stability in Iraq.

Those who support repealing the Iraqi military authorizations point to this evolution in our relationship as evidence that the AUMFs are no longer needed. It has been 20 years since the U.S. invasion of Iraq, and they say the

authorizations are outdated. Our relationship is shifting, they argue, so it is time for those AUMFs to go.

Unfortunately, it is not that simple. Despite the fact that Iraq is now our partner, that doesn't mean it is time to abandon our security interests in the region. America still has very real adversaries in the Middle East who would do us and our allies harm if they got the chance. Today, Iran-backed militias operate in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and other countries throughout the Middle East. They are proxies of the Iranian military, with the goal of spreading Iranian political influence far and wide.

This isn't just some warmonger conspiracy theory. There is clear and absolute linkage between the Iranian regime and the militias operating throughout the Middle East. They are, in effect, hired guns, which are fighting to take territory that has been no man's land since the drawdown of U.S. forces in the Middle East. And in many cases, they continue to target U.S. troops.

Just last Thursday, an Iranian drone targeted a U.S. facility in Syria, killing an American contractor and wounding five American servicemembers. The U.S. responded the following day by conducting an airstrike against an Iran-backed militia in Syria. And then, within hours, Iran's proxies launched another attack on a U.S. military base in Syria.

Despite the fact that we know a great deal about these groups and their capabilities and the threat they pose to the Middle East, we are relatively limited in our efforts to counter their aggression.

Counterterrorism missions rely on the 2001 authorization for the use of military force, which was passed in the wake of the terrorist attacks on 9/11. Since many Iran-backed militia have not been designated as terrorist organizations, the 2001 AUMF doesn't apply to them. That means we can only use the 2002 AUMF to counter Iran-backed militia and other groups that pose threats to the stability of Iraq and to U.S. national security interests.

If we were to repeal the 2002 AUMF, we limit the President's ability to target these groups. We, in effect, have withdrawn congressional consent. That applies to President Biden today, and it would apply to future commanders in chief as well. In effect, this would tie their hands when it comes to countering threats posed by Iran and its proxies.

To state the obvious, we can't dispose of any tools that could be used to protect the United States or our partners.

Three Presidents have cited the 2002 AUMF as an authorization for the use of military force. In 2003, President Bush used his authority to justify the invasion of Iraq. In other words, this was with congressional consent. In 2014, President Barack Obama cited the 2002 AUMF to justify strikes against

Islamic state terrorists in Iraq and Syria. Then, in 2020, former President Trump relied on this authority to justify the strike that killed Iranian General Qasem Soleimani in Baghdad.

Given the growing threats from Iran, it would be absurd to toss this authorization out the window today. If Congress repeals the Iraqi war authorizations, it prompts a lot of questions about what comes next. Without the 2002 AUMF, the President would lose the ability to contain Iran and its aggression. Iran's influence in the region would swell and Iranian-backed militia would terrorize Syria and Iraq with impunity. Iran would be free to focus on its maniacal desire to destroy Israel. And without having to contend with the United States, it would be free to spend even more money financing terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah.

Russian influence in Syria would grow, giving Putin a launch pad to further project power into the Middle East. Our friends and allies, no longer safe with America at their side, could succumb to coercive partnerships with China, giving Xi Jinping another region in which to compete with the United States for global primacy.

In short, passing this legislation would create a power vacuum in the Middle East that could be filled by Iran, Russia, and China. We would be ceding the region back to competition after working for years to promote stability.

Of course, there are costs to maintaining our position in the Middle East, but the cost-benefit analysis clearly shows that we have to leave every authority in place to defend American and allied interests in the Middle East.

Over the last few decades, as I said a moment ago, America's relationship with Iraq has changed for the better. It is a valuable partner. We work together to support security for Iraq and the region as a whole. The U.S. military works with Iraqi forces to counter threats from Iran and to reduce its influence in the region. These authorizations for the use of military force are key to our continued success.

It also means that we will continue to work with the executive branch, rather than have the executive branch rely strictly on the President's constitutional powers. They give the President of the United States the flexibility needed to counter these threats and the threats that they pose from Iran. We would be doing Iran a huge favor by repealing these AUMFs.

Suffice it to say, I oppose the effort to repeal these Iraqi war authorizations, and I encourage my colleagues in the Senate to join me in that opposition.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, we will be voting about 5:30, about 30 minutes from now, to end debate and tomorrow have some amendments, then go to final passage on legislation to repeal the authorization to use military force for 2002 directed against Iraq and Saddam Hussein.

The problem I have with what we are doing is that we are repealing the authorization to use military force because Saddam is dead and that threat is gone, but we are not replacing it with an authorization that our troops desperately need, which is to create an AUMF to allow our military to go after Shiite militias that are attacking them routinely inside of Iraq. There have been over 78 attacks since 2021 directed at U.S. forces by different groups, mostly Shiite militias controlled by Iran, in Iraq and Syria. A couple days ago, there was an attack on an American base in Syria. An American contractor was killed. God bless him and his family. And we retaliated, and they retaliated back. The bottom line is that our response to aggression against U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria is woefully inadequate. Seventy-something attacks since 2021. Clearly, nobody feels afraid to attack our troops over there, and we need to create some deterrence that we don't have today.

So I had an amendment that failed that would allow authorization to use military force to exist where the Congress blesses the use of military force against Shiite militias that are operating in Iraq because they are a threat to about 2,500 troops that we have stationed in Iraq.

The forces in Syria—about 900—are there to finish the counter-ISIS mission, and I hear people, particularly on my side, say that we shouldn't be in Syria.

You know, doing the same thing over and over again expecting a different result is insanity. The last time we pulled all of our forces out of Iraq, it was President Obama with the support of then-Vice President Biden, the ISIS JV team became the varsity team. They took over great parts of Syria and Iraq. They destroyed the city of Mosul. They set up shop in Raqqa, Syria, and they launched attacks from Syria, ISIS directed, at United States and Europe throughout the world, killing thousands of people.

President Trump authorized our military to take down the caliphate. And this idea that if you leave, they won't come back is stupid. You know nothing if you believe that. You may be tired of fighting radical Islam. They are not tired of fighting you. I would rather fight in their backyard than ours. They are going to destroy us if we don't destroy them.

Here is the good news. They are on the run. As long as we keep some of our forces in place, working with people in Syria and Iraq who do not want to live under ISIS rule, we will be relatively safe. If you pull all the troops out, you are going to get the same outcome. People who keep arguing this, you really are doing a great disservice to the country, and your arguments make zero sense. You don't understand the enemy. You have no idea what this war is about.

This is a religious struggle. They have declared war on every faith but their own. They want to purify Islam in their own image—ISIS and al-Qaida. They want to destroy the State of Israel and eventually come after us. Leaving them alone doesn't guarantee you much. In 2001, before 9/11, we didn't have one soldier in Afghanistan. We didn't even have an embassy. We totally abandoned Afghanistan, and the attack against our country on 9/11 originated in Afghanistan.

When will you learn that these people are out to get you? And when I say "you," I mean Americans. Anybody who believes in diversity in faith, they have a world view that has no place for you. The good news is most people in the Mideast are not buying what they are selling, but they are very lethal and dangerous left unattended.

Now, when you create the right mix of U.S. forces and local forces, you pretty well keep them on the run and keep them at bay. So to those who suggest we shouldn't be in Syria with 900 U.S. forces to prevent ISIS from coming back, you are setting the stage for a reemergence of ISIS, and once is enough, folks.

They destroyed the Yazidi population, raped women by the thousands and created carnage all over Syria and Iraq and projected attacks against American Western allies from a safe haven in Raqqa, Syria.

Now, the theory of the case here is that we as Congress need to take back authority, and this authorization to use force no longer needs to be in place because the war against Saddam Hussein is over. We can argue about Iraq being a good idea or a bad idea. We did have bad intelligence. But here is what I would say 20 years later. Saddam being dead is a good thing, from my point of view, because he was a thug and a dictator on steroids. And the people of Iraq are on their second or third election. It has been messy, but they are moving in the right direction. And we have 2,500 troops back in Iraq to make sure ISIS doesn't come back and destabilize the region and try to have some influence against the Iranians.

So if you want to repeal the AUMF, I think you owe it to the troops to follow it with something. So the people who want to do this say: Article II, which is the inherent authority of the Commander in Chief, allows President Biden to protect our troops in Iraq. There is truth to that. But the whole idea is for us as a Congress to have a

say in foreign policy and not sort of give a blank check. So if you want to cancel the check to go after Saddam because he is not around, I think you owe it to the troops to lend your voice because the enemy sees this as retreat.

No matter what you want the enemy to believe about what is going on here, all they understand is the American Congress is making a step to get out of Iraq, and that is good news for them.

After Afghanistan—the disaster there—don't you think we should be more clear in our thought?

The Biden administration was wrong to take troops out of Afghanistan. They are right to have troops in Iraq and Syria, but the Congress is trying to be a bit hypocritical here. We want to cancel one authorization to use force, and we don't have the courage, apparently, politically, to say the military has our approval, as a Congress working with the President, to go after Shiite militias that are killing our forces in Iraq and attacking them regularly.

What does Iran want?

Now, this is not an authorization to go after the Iranian regime. It is an authorization to protect American forces in Iraq from attacks in Iraq coming from Shiite militias loyal to Iran.

What are they trying to achieve?

They want to drive us out. If the 900 troops left Syria tomorrow, Assad would eventually conquer what is left of Syria and ISIS would fill that vacuum and you would have a conflict with Turkey and the Kurds. And all the people—our chairman of the Armed Services Committee is a very smart guy and a very great friend—all the Kurds who fought with us, they would be wiped out.

So I am glad the Biden administration is going to stay in Syria because we need those troops to keep ISIS from coming back and to work with our Kurdish partners.

But when it comes to Iraq, they are trying to drive us out because Iran wants us out of Syria so their buddy Assad can run the place. They want us out of Iraq so the Shiite radical elements in Iraq can topple the Iraqi Government, and the Shiite militias would take authority away from the Iraqi Army, and they will have influence over Iraq and Syria.

It is not in America's interest to allow the Ayatollah in Iran to have more influence and more spaces to govern and more oil to generate revenue from. So if you don't get that, you are not really following what is going on.

So no matter what you say about article II, I hate to tell you, ISIS probably doesn't follow our Constitution that closely. The best thing we could do, if you want to repeal the 2002 AUMF that was generated to get rid of Saddam, replace it with something new—an authorization to use force to protect our troops that we all agree or most of us agree should be in Iraq to protect America from attacks from Shiite militias. That amendment was rejected.

Here is what you are doing. You are sending a signal by doing this that we are leaving, we are withdrawing, and that we don't have the will as a nation to see this thing through. There is nothing good comes from this. You are openly admitting the President has authority to use force to protect our troops, but you are not going to lend your voice to that cause, and I don't understand that.

If the Congress, working with the President, said: No matter who is President, you have the ability to use military force to protect our troops against Shiite militias in Iraq, that would make us stronger. The enemy would understand it better. Our allies would understand it more clearly. And they have got to be wondering, What the hell is going on here?

So the bottom line is, you are setting in motion, by not replacing the AUMF with something specific to Shiite militias that are attacking our troops regularly—you are setting in motion more danger for those in Iraq and eventually Syria.

And I don't question your patriotism. I do question our judgment as a body. This is a very ill-conceived idea. It is going to juice up the enemy. It is going to confuse our allies. And it could be easily fixed, but we choose not to.

I don't know what the political environment is in America today, but the idea that the war is over with radical Islam is insane. I have listened to people—some on my side—come down here and want to repeal the authorization to go after al-Qaida and affiliated groups after 9/11. General Kurilla, the CENTCOM commander in charge of the region, said, last week, because of our withdrawal from Afghanistan, ISIS in Afghanistan has the ability to strike us in this country within 6 months without warning.

So can you imagine the damage to be done to national security interests if we repeal the 2001 AUMF?

So I will close with this. While I understand theoretically why we want to replace—get rid of the 2002 AUMF because Saddam is gone, I don't understand why we are leaving this vacuum and this doubt. This is easily fixed.

You are creating a narrative that is going to come back to haunt us. You think it is an accident within 2 days of introducing this idea that they hit us in Syria again? They are going to test us.

And here is what I think. The Biden administration is doing a lousy job, quite frankly, of instilling fear in the enemy. Whether you like Trump or not, people were afraid of him. And there is no fear. And here is what I would like to have established: Working with the administration, not against them, to send a clear signal: You kill Americans at your own peril. We are not leaving. We are not going to let radical Islam come back and do it all over again.

So I will be voting no. This is one of the most ill-conceived ideas after 9/11.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise today to express my support for S. 316 and the repealing of the 1991 and 2002 authorization for the use of military force, or AUMF. I commend Senators KAINE and YOUNG for their relentless work on this bill, and I am glad to be a cosponsor of it along with 43 of my colleagues.

I voted against the 2002 AUMF when it was introduced more than 20 years ago. And I can assure you that as we debated that bill at that time, no one would have believed that 20 years later we would be on the floor debating its repeal. The war against Saddam Hussein is long over, and our bilateral relationship with Iraq is fundamentally different today. In our current fight against violent extremists, the Biden administration has clearly stated it does not rely on the 2002 AUMF as the basis for any ongoing military operations.

Let's remember what the 2002 AUMF authorizes. The United States went to war, "to defend the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq." The Bush administration alleged, falsely, that Iraq had amassed an arsenal of nuclear weapons. Bush administration officials also alleged that the Iraq Government had ties to the al-Qaida terrorists that attacked the United States on September 11, 2001. These false pretenses and cherry-picked information provided the basis for Congress to authorize the war in Iraq in 2002—again, an authorization I opposed.

And this costly war of choice caused the United States irreparable harm. It caused us to take our eyes off violent extremist groups throughout the region and resurgent Taliban in Afghanistan. It also forced us to take our eyes off Russia and China as they became peer competitors. As we spent billions of dollars investing in tactical vehicles to protect our troops in a counterinsurgency, as we spent billions of dollars to try to train Afghan forces, the Russians and the Chinese invested in hypersonic vehicles, in very sophisticated long-range precision strike weapons. And the Chinese have been building an entire navy since then. We paid little attention because we were preoccupied with Iraq.

And finally and ironically, our war in Iraq allowed Iran to become one of the most powerful and dangerous forces in the region, because we took out a block against their ambition, which had been Saddam Hussein and Iraq. As a result, we are paying, today, for those errors in judgment, and I think it is only fitting that we recognize it and repeal those AUMFs.

We have ongoing operations to suppress violent extremists. Beginning on 9/11 and going forward, we have been fighting anyone who has aspirations to use terror attacks against the U.S. homeland or our allies. That is as a re-

sult of the 2001 AUMF that essentially empowered our government to find and defeat terrorists, anywhere they are, who pose a threat to the United States and to our allies. Retaining the 2001 AUMF or an appropriate successor to that statute remains essential for the Defense Department's current counterterrorism operations, and Congress must continue to exercise robust oversight over its use.

Further, the Biden administration has drawn a clear distinction between the two Iraq AUMFs that would be repealed under S. 316 and the 2001 AUMF. The repeal of the two AUMFs would have no impact on our current operations, and as a domestic legal basis, no ongoing military activities rely solely on either the 1991 or the 2002 AUMF.

Leaving the 2002 authorization in place sends a harmful signal to Iraq, where our forces remain at the invitation of the Government of Iraq. Iraq is a critical partner now in our fight against ISIS and in our fight against Shia militias that are transiting Iraq and attacking our forces in Syria. We should not communicate to the Iraqi Government that the United States reserves the right to use force against its nation in the future. This is contrary to the cooperation that our military forces need to counter ISIS operations.

Further, keeping the 2002 AUMF provides a propaganda tool for Iran. The Iranian Government is constantly seeking to convince the Iraqis that Tehran, not Washington, is a more reliable partner. We face a real and growing threat from Iran, but the 2002 AUMF does not authorize the use of force against Iran, and it must not be relied on for that purpose now.

Finally, as laid out in the Constitution, Congress has the sole power to declare war. We must exercise that responsibility with the utmost care when it comes to matters of the use of military force. Repealing AUMFs that have served their intended purposes and are no longer applicable to current military operations is fully consistent with the careful exercise of the Senate's constitutional responsibilities.

On that basis, I support S. 316 and the repeal of the 2002 and 1991 AUMFs. Again, I commend Senator Kaine for his leadership, and I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this bill.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to complete my statement before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, the vote the Senate is about to take is about what is right for our Nation. It is part of exercising our most solemn duty as elected officials. It is a recognition that Congress not only has the power to declare war but also should have the responsibility to end wars, and it is a decision to turn the page on one of those chapters in our country's history.

With today's vote, we can move closer to repealing two obsolete and outdated authorizations for the use of military force against Iraq. Repealing these authorizations will demonstrate to the region—and to the world—that the United States is not an occupying force; that the war in Iraq has come to an end; that we are moving forward, working with Iraq as a strategic partner. So I commend the Senate for moving forward to take this critical step.

I hope the Senate will speak overwhelmingly in support of preserving congressional prerogatives as to when and under what circumstances we send our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters into harm's way and clawing back authorities that have clearly outlived their purpose and scope.

Some of my colleagues have argued that repealing 20- and 30-year-old authorizations will weaken our ability to confront Iranian aggression. Some have offered amendments that would alter these authorizations. Others have offered amendments that would expand these authorizations. And a few have offered amendments that have, well, quite frankly, nothing at all to do with these authorizations. So let me address that point briefly.

Just in the last few days, the President directed targeted strikes against groups affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Syria. This was in response to Iranian-backed drone attacks that killed a U.S. contractor and wounded five American servicemembers at a maintenance facility in Syria. The President looked at the intelligence, he consulted his advisors, he ordered the strike, and he committed, publicly, to continue to defend against Iranian aggression and to respond to attacks against U.S. forces. He did so without—without—relying on the 1991 or 2002 authorizations for use of military force against Iraq.

This President has been clear in his view that he has sufficient authority to defend against threats to U.S. personnel and interests. If we are going to debate whether to provide the President additional authorities, then we should have that debate separately. But it should not be under the cloak of keeping old authorizations on the books, authorizations that are not needed to meet any current threat. They are not about the current threat; they are about a regime that is no longer alive and has been gone for the better part of those 20 years. This is just a tactic to delay this repeal from going forward. Nor should we turn a debate about repeal and a chance to take

a historic step forward into a new backdoor authorization for the use of force against another country.

So I urge my colleagues to stay focused on the facts, repeal an authorization that is no longer used or needed, and close this chapter on American foreign policy. Let's finally—finally—repeal the 1991 and 2002 authorizations for use of military force against Iraq. I urge my colleagues to vote to move forward with repeal of these AUMFs.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 25, S. 316, a bill to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq.

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez, Tim Kaine, Tina Smith, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Baldwin, Patty Murray, Michael F. Bennet, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Duckworth, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher Murphy, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on Calendar No. 25, S. 316, a bill to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 65, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 70 Leg.]

YEAS—65

Baldwin	Durbin	Markey
Bennet	Gillibrand	Marshall
Blumenthal	Grassley	Menendez
Booker	Hassan	Merkley
Braun	Hawley	Moran
Brown	Heinrich	Murkowski
Budd	Hickenlooper	Murphy
Cantwell	Hirono	Murray
Cardin	Hoeven	Ossoff
Carper	Kaine	Paul
Casey	Kelly	Peters
Cassidy	King	Reed
Collins	Klobuchar	Rosen
Cortez Masto	Lee	Sanders
Cramer	Lujan	Schatz
Daines	Lummis	Schmitt
Duckworth	Manchin	Schumer

Shaheen
Sinema
Smith
Stabenow
Tester

Van Hollen
Vance
Warner
Warnock
Warren

Welch
Whitehouse
Wyden
Young

NAYS—28

Boozman
Britt
Capito
Coryn
Cotton
Crapo
Cruz
Ernst
Fischer
Graham

Hagerty
Hyde-Smith
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Mullin
Ricketts
Risch
Romney
Rounds

Rubio
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Tuberville
Wicker

NOT VOTING—7

Barrasso
Blackburn
Coons

Feinstein
Fetterman
McConnell

Padilla

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). On this vote, the yeas are 65, the nays are 28.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

REMEMBERING GLADYS KESSLER

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here this evening to commemorate the passing of a remarkable individual. I only met her once when I went over to speak at a gathering of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. But on March 16, at the age of 85, Her Honor Judge Gladys Kessler passed away.

She had been quite a trailblazer before she went on the court. She co-founded the Women's Legal Defense Fund, now known as the National Partnership for Women & Families, and she served as the president of the National Association of Women Judges.

In her career, she rendered a lot of very good decisions, but the most memorable one and the one that exemplified some of the characteristics I admired the most about her was the decision that she rendered exposing in detail a conspiracy by the tobacco industry to deceive the American public about the safety of tobacco.

The Big Tobacco scheme is one that we are, I think, pretty familiar with. You pay a lot of phony-baloney for-hire scientists to produce studies making false claims about your product, you hire a web of PR experts and front groups to spread doubt and critique the actual real science that you don't like, and you have paid intermediaries to relentlessly attack and try to smear your opponents.

In the face of this behavior, we had a remedy: the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, the RICO Act.

In 1999, the U.S. Department of Justice filed a civil RICO lawsuit against the major tobacco companies and their associated industry groups alleging that the companies, and I will quote the complaint here, "engaged in and executed—and continue to engage in and execute—a massive 50-year scheme to defraud the public, including consumers of cigarettes, in violation of RICO."

The case took 7 years, but in 2006, Judge Kessler wrote one of the most impressive opinions I have ever seen from a U.S. district court judge. It was 1,683 pages long. She went through the evidence that the U.S. Department of Justice had marshaled, and she organized it and laid it out in a way that was completely compelling, that completely crushed the defendant tobacco companies, to the point where, when it was on appeal, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit very powerfully upheld it. It is one of the powers of a district judge that, with the authority to find the facts and marshal the evidence properly, you can make virtually bomb-proof opinions, and in 1,683 pages, Judge Gladys Kessler did just that. She found the defendant—here is her quote:

Defendants coordinated significant aspects of their public relations, scientific, legal, and marketing activity in furtherance of a shared objective—to . . . maximize industry profits by preserving and expanding the market for cigarettes through a scheme to deceive the public.

She added:

In short, [they] have marketed and sold their lethal product with zeal, with deception, with a single-minded focus on their financial success, and without regard for the human tragedy or social costs that success exacted.

It was a testament—this opinion was—to judicial diligence, and it left a permanent, solid record for history of the campaign of fraud that the tobacco industry had run until that point.

Of course, in order for her to be able to render that decision, there had to be a plaintiff willing to bring the case. So kudos also to the U.S. Department of Justice back then for being willing to take on a defendant as powerful as the tobacco industry. We forget, now that smoking is so much less of a thing, how enormously powerful the tobacco industry was, how its network of suppliers gave it footholds in every State, how its enormous revenues allowed it to cut into this building and manipulate the politics of the U.S. Congress to the great detriment of the health of the American people.

It goes without saying that there is an obvious parallel between the conduct of the tobacco industry leading up to Judge Kessler's decision and the conduct of the fossil fuel industry.

In fact, experts point out that when Judge Kessler's decision shut down the fraud of the tobacco industry, some of the individuals and some of the organizations that had been involved in that fraud simply rebooted themselves as new experts in how to deny climate science.

I hope that we come to a point where today's Department of Justice has the diligence and the fortitude to go ahead with a similar action. But today, this is about Judge Kessler—a woman who saw something going very badly wrong and sat down and wrote a 1600-page decision to put it right. I think it is a pretty terrific example.

And I have a few bits of business, if I may, and then we will open the floor to the other speakers.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 106-286, appoints the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: The Honorable ANGUS S. KING of Maine and The Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH of Illinois.

RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF MARCH 19 THROUGH MARCH 25, 2023, AS "NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK" AND ENCOURAGING COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS OF POISONING AND PROMOTE POISON PREVENTION

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged, and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 123.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 123) recognizing the week of March 19 through March 25, 2023, as "National Poison Prevention Week" and encouraging communities across the United States to raise awareness of the dangers of poisoning and promote poison prevention.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 123) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 23, 2023, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO COLLEEN CALLAHAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, since 1987, we have recognized March as Women's History Month. It is an opportunity to honor the women who have served our Nation throughout our history.

This March, I want to commend one woman who has devoted her life to serving my home State of Illinois: Colleen Callahan. After nearly 4 years of service, Colleen recently stepped down from her role as the first-ever female director for the Illinois Department of

Natural Resources. Throughout her tenure, Colleen was a dedicated steward of our State's natural wonders, all while navigating a once-in-a-century pandemic. While this was an historic challenge, it was far from the first she has faced in her career. Time and again, Colleen has stood up in the face of adversity and persevered.

Colleen has a record of breaking down barriers. As a young woman living on a family farm near Milford, IL, she took a keen interest in agriculture, which, back then, was something of a boy's club. But that didn't stop her from pursuing her childhood passion. She participated in livestock shows and even achieved the title of Youngest Exhibitor of a Grand Champion at the International Livestock Exhibition in Chicago at just 9 years old. Despite her talent and success, Colleen was unable to join the Future Farmers of America, not because of merit, but because women were not yet eligible for consideration. But she pressed on.

After high school, Colleen attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and pursued a degree in agricultural communications, at a time when very few women were represented in broadcast journalism. As a freshman in college, she became the first woman to join the Illinois State 4-H Livestock Judging Team, a true full-circle moment. By the time she graduated with honors in 1973, she had already accepted her first job as an agribusiness reporter for WMBD-TV in Peoria. For the next three decades, Colleen made her dream of becoming a broadcast journalist a reality.

And her record of accomplishment was just beginning. After years as a successful reporter, Colleen became the first-ever female agribusiness director for WMBD-TV. Shortly after, she served as the first female president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting. Being the "first" is never easy, but, as evidenced by her remarkable career, Colleen has never been afraid to venture into new territory. And, because of her determination, she has opened many doors that have previously been closed to women in agriculture.

In addition to her passion for broadcasting and agriculture, Colleen also has answered the call to public service. Really, she was born for it. Colleen comes from a family of true public servants: Her uncle, Gene Callahan, was a dear friend of mine, and a lifelong Democrat whom I worked alongside under former U.S. Senator, and my mentor and friend, Paul Simon. And Gene's daughter—Colleen's cousin—is former Congresswoman Cheri Bustos, who represented Illinois' 17th Congressional District from 2013 to January of this year—not to mention her father, Francis Callahan, who was chair of the Iroquois County Democrats, and her grandfather, Joe Callahan, who was vice chairman of the Iroquois County Democrats and a member of the Illinois State House of Representatives.

So it was no surprise when Colleen announced she was running for Illinois' 18th Congressional District in 2008. While she may have come up just short in that race, Colleen speaks fondly of the experience. She once said, "Not winning doesn't mean losing!"

But still, Colleen went on to win countless victories for the people of Illinois. Shortly after her run for Congress, then-President Barack Obama appointed her to serve as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Illinois State Director of Rural Development.

And in March 2019, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker appointed her as director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, making her the first woman in Illinois history to hold this position. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources helps manage our more than 400 State parks, historic sites, wildlife, and water resources. Colleen had about a year to get her bearings as director until the COVID-19 pandemic hit. And during this unprecedented and tumultuous time, she certainly rose to the occasion. She preserved and expanded our State's invaluable natural resources at the exact moment they were needed. During the darkest days of the pandemic, Illinoisans sought comfort and quality time outdoors. So our State parks, historical sites, and natural areas became a sanctuary for many—and Colleen was there for our families every step of the way.

In 2021, she spearheaded the effort to re-name an invasive species of fish—previously known as Asian carp—to "Copi," short for the word "copious," given how abundant the carp is in Illinois rivers and streams.

And, after a consistent, decades-long decline in general revenue funding for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Colleen secured the department's largest State budget in more than 20 years, which is now funding long overdue improvements at sites across our State. Today, Colleen's hard work is paying off. With these new funds, she has played a hand in reopening the Rend Lake Resort, located in Wayne Fitzgerald State Park in Franklin, IL. For a long time, the Rend Lake Resort served as Franklin's economic powerhouse, but after years of neglect and financial troubles, the resort had no option but to prepare for permanent closure. Its future seemed bleak until Colleen stepped in and saved the day. And later this year, the department will break ground on a \$17.5 million renovation that will revamp the facility and breathe fresh life into Rend Lake Resort.

This investment, along with Colleen's efforts to reduce Illinois' carbon footprint and mitigate the effects of climate change, has and will make a difference in the lives of every Illinoisan. While Colleen has closed this chapter of her distinguished career, she, thankfully, has no plans to fully retire from public life. For her, there is still much left to be done.

I want to thank Colleen for her dedication to public service and for never

being afraid to shatter a few glass ceilings along the way. She is a trailblazer and a role model to many. Illinois is truly grateful for her contributions to our great State. Loretta and I wish Colleen and her husband Dick much happiness in their next chapter.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING LEGACY MANUFACTURING COMPANY

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Legacy Manufacturing of Marion, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week for the week of March 27, 2023.

When it came to everyday construction and household tools, the Weems family was unsatisfied with the current products on the market. In 1986, the family decided to take matters into their own hands and opened a small manufacturing company to develop products they considered to be lacking in the market. Through decades of dedication to crafting innovative products, the Weems family business has grown into Legacy Manufacturing, a company that makes high-quality, long-lasting tools and equipment for professional and consumer use. Legacy Manufacturing is a prime example of the two things that make America great: entrepreneurial spirit and family.

For almost 40 years, Legacy Manufacturing has kept smart engineering, quality materials, and top-notch production standards at the forefront of their company. Starting off as a small manufacturer in eastern Iowa, Legacy Manufacturing has received national recognition for their uniquely designed innovative hose, which they named the "Flexzilla." The Flexzilla is a staple in their product line and can be found across global markets. The Flexzilla is lighter and has a more durable outer cover than the traditional water hose. Additionally, the entire hose is drinking water safe, so kids on a hot Iowa summer day can enjoy a refreshing drink, and parents can rest easy knowing that the Flexzilla is made with this in mind.

Legacy Manufacturing's commitment to quality products has paid off. The Flexzilla hose has consistently been ranked the best garden hose for years. Recently, it was ranked as one of the best garden hoses of 2023 by People Magazine and NBC News. Ultimately, it was ranked as the best garden hose overall for 2023 in an independent review by USA Today and was named one of the "best of the best" garden hoses by BestReviews LLC in 2022.

The Weems family's leadership has been integral to revolutionizing the

consumer experience and has emerged as a unique market leader for a wide range of tools. When a customer buys a product from Legacy Manufacturing, they can be assured that they are getting the best product on the market in terms of quality, innovation, and product safety. Legacy Manufacturing offers a wide range of professional grade service and maintenance equipment for the automotive, industrial, contractor, agricultural, and marine markets throughout North America. The motto of the company is "taking the work out of work." This means that they make sure each of their products are made from quality materials and ensure that they are built to last. Legacy Manufacturing currently is home to six different brands: the Legacy brand, Flexzilla, ColorConnex, SmartFlex, Lock-n-Load, and Workforce. All of these brands have a different focus to diversify the product line and ensure that every customer is satisfied with their product. They have gone so far that they even created YouTube videos that demonstrate to consumers how each of their products work.

For over 40 years, Legacy Manufacturing has been able to achieve success in eastern Iowa. In 2016, they completed their 133,000-square-foot facility in Marion, IA. In 2017, they were able to start a 200,000-square-foot expansion of their facilities in Marion, thanks to the Iowa Economic Development Authority—IEDA—grant program. The expansion adds to the growing reshoring movement in an effort to bring back manufacturing jobs to the United States. The expansion created 13 new jobs which brought the number of people employed by Legacy Manufacturing to about 75 employees. Overall, the company brings hope and prosperity to Iowa as more manufacturing jobs return to the United States.

Not only has the company received wide acclaims by industry experts for their high-performing products, Legacy Manufacturing and the Weems family have been recognized for their commitment to employing Iowans and growing the local economy. I want to commend the Weems family and the entire team at Legacy Manufacturing for their commitment to innovation and for their perseverance in growing their manufacturing company in the United States. Congratulations, I look forward to your continued growth and success in Iowa.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 406. An act to provide for the treatment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as an international organization for purposes of the International Organizations Immunities Act, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House of Representatives having proceeded to reconsider the resolution (H.J. Res. 30) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights", returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the House of Representatives, in which it originated, it was resolved that the said resolution do not pass, two-thirds of the House of Representatives not agreeing to pass the same.

At 4:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5. An act to ensure the rights of parents are honored and protected in the Nation's public schools.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 25. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5. An act to ensure the rights of parents are honored and protected in the Nation's public schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 406. An act to provide for the treatment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as an international organization for purposes of the International Organizations Immunities Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-801. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the White House Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) response to the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council's (WHEJAC) Phase One Scorecard Recommendations Report (Scorecard Report); to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-802. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Secretariat Division, Office of Governmentwide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Management Regulation; Real Estate Acquisition" (RIN3090-AK42) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-803. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NSPS Review for Lead Acid Battery Manufacturing Plants and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Lead Acid Battery Manufacturing Area Sources Technology Review" (FRL No. 8602-02-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-804. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Deletion from the National Priorities List" (FRL No. 10632-02-OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-805. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partial Approval, Conditional Approval, and Partial Disapproval of Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Nevada; Infrastructure Requirements for Fine Particulate Matter" (FRL No. 10224-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-806. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; California; Innovative Clean Transit Regulation" (FRL No. 9936-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-807. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Upper Coosa River Distinct Population Segment of Frecklebelly Madtom and Designation of Critical Habitat" (RIN1018-BE87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 14, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-808. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Prostrate Milkweed and Designation of Critical Habitat" (RIN1018-BE65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 14, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-809. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Manage-

ment Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Virginia; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards Second Maintenance Plan for the Richmond-Petersburg Area" (FRL No. 9148-02-R3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-810. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Alabama; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference" (FRL No. 9361-01-R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-811. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference" (FRL No. 9363-01-R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-812. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Revisions to Particulate Matter Rules; Vertellus" (FRL No. 10117-02-R5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-813. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Alaska; Adoption and Permitting Rule Updates" (FRL No. 10452-02-R10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-814. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category—Initial Notification Date Extension" (FRL No. 8794.1-02-OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 14, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-815. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to Method 23 — Determination of Polychlorinated Dibenzo-P-Dioxins and Polychlorinated Dibenzofurans from Stationary Sources" (FRL No. 9937-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 14, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-816. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Testing Provisions for Air Emission Sources" (FRL No. 8335-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 14, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-817. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Source Performance Standards Review for Industrial Surface Coating of Plastic Parts for Business Machines" (FRL No. 8515-01-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 14, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-818. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Redesignation for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Canton, Ohio; Stark County, Ohio" ((RIN2060-AV66) (FRL No. 9631-01-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 14, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-819. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Main; 111(d)/129 Revised State Plan for Large Municipal Waste Combustors and State Plan for Small Municipal Waste Combustors and State Plan for Small Municipal Waste Combustors" (FRL No. 10220-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 14, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-820. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Delay of Submittal Date for State Plans Required Under the Affordable Clean Energy Rule" ((RIN2060-AV88) (FRL No. 10477-01-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 14, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-821. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Control of Air Pollution from New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards; Correction" (FRL No. 7165-04-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 14, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-822. A communication from the Chair, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "March 2023 Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-823. A communication from the Chair, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "March 2023 Report to the Congress: Medicare Payment Policy"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-824. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Performance Report for fiscal year 2022 and Annual Performance Plan for fiscal year 2023-2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-825. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New procedures for implementing the Alternative Cost Method for Real Estate Developers" (Rev. Proc. 2023-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 14, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-826. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Relief for Reporting Required Minimum Distributions for IRAs for 2023" (Notice 2023-23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 14, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

Special Report entitled "Legislative and Oversight Activities during the 117th Congress by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs" (Rept. No. 118-3).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 974. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make publicly available information on infant formula procurement under the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 975. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to reform the contribution system of the Universal Service Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 976. A bill to establish and expand child care programs for parents who work non-traditional hours, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 977. A bill to provide grants for fire station construction through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 978. A bill to expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students and improve textbook price information; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 979. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform and reduce fraud and abuse in certain visa programs for aliens working temporarily in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 980. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to exempt industrial

hemp from certain requirements under the hemp production program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 981. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to define the term natural cheese; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 982. A bill to establish an FBI hotline to receive tips about persons trying to engage in certain activities in the United States on behalf of the Government of China or the Chinese Communist Party, and to criminalize the performance of the functions of a law enforcement agency in the United States on behalf of the Government of China or the Chinese Communist Party; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

S. 983. A bill to permit the Attorney General to award grants for accurate data on opioid-related overdoses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 984. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to permit video or telephone certifications under the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 985. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure campus access at public institutions of higher education for religious groups; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 986. A bill to increase the criminal penalty for mail fraud involving misrepresentation of the country of origin, to terminate the authority to exclude countries from the requirement to transmit advance electronic information for 100 percent of mail shipments under the STOP Act of 2018, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 987. A bill to expand the HERO Child-Rescue Corps Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 988. A bill to provide for coordination by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission of the process for reviewing certain natural gas projects under the jurisdiction of the Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. BUDD):

S. 989. A bill to establish a more uniform, transparent, and modern process to authorize the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of international border-crossing facilities for the import and export of oil and natural gas and the transmission of electricity; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 990. A bill to require the Commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command to conduct a gap analysis of the capabilities of the North American Aerospace Defense Command; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. BAR-RASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, and Mrs. BRITT):

S.J. Res. 22. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Waivers and Modifications of Federal Student Loans"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. Res. 125. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Social Work Month and World Social Work Day on March 21, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 133

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 133, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 134

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 134, a bill to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

S. 141

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 141, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 156

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 156, a bill to expand the use of

E-Verify to hold employers accountable, and for other purposes.

S. 321

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 321, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to define intimate partner to include someone with whom there is or was a dating relationship, and for other purposes.

S. 391

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 391, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring an issuer to disclose information relating to certain greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes.

S. 431

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 431, a bill to withhold United States contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and for other purposes.

S. 469

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 469, a bill to require disclosure of the total amount of interest that would be paid over the life of a loan for certain Federal student loans.

S. 505

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 505, a bill to amend section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform immigration parole, and for other purposes.

S. 566

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 566, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and extend the deduction for charitable contributions for individuals not itemizing deductions.

S. 600

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 600, a bill to amend the Controlled Substance Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances.

S. 686

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 686, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to review and prohibit certain transactions between persons in the United States and foreign adversaries, and for other purposes.

S. 747

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 747, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants to States, territories, and Indian Tribes to address contamination by perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances on farms, and for other purposes.

S. 858

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 858, a bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings.

S. 866

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 866, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance tax benefits for research activities.

S. 870

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 870, a bill to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs.

S. 878

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 878, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act to modify the offenses relating to fentanyl, and for other purposes.

S. 894

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 894, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to collect and disseminate information on concussion and traumatic brain injury among public safety officers.

S. 969

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 969, a bill to amend the National Quantum Initiative Act to make certain additions relating to quantum modeling and simulation, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 8

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 8, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and

continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities of the United States.

S. RES. 120

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 120, a resolution designating March 23, 2023, as "National Women in Agriculture Day".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 978. A bill to expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students and improve textbook price information; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 978

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Affordable College Textbook Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

- (1) The high cost of college textbooks continues to be a barrier for many students in achieving higher education.
- (2) According to the College Board, during the 2022-2023 academic year, the average student budget for college books and supplies at 4-year public institutions of higher education was \$1,240.
- (3) The Government Accountability Office found that new textbook prices increased 82 percent between 2002 and 2012 and that although Federal efforts to increase price transparency have provided students and families with more and better information, more must be done to address rising costs.
- (4) The growth of the internet has enabled the creation and sharing of digital content, including open educational resources that can be freely used by students, teachers, and members of the public.
- (5) According to the Student PIRGs, expanded use of open educational resources has the potential to save students more than a billion dollars annually.
- (6) Federal investment in expanding the use of open educational resources has lowered college textbook costs and reduced financial barriers to higher education, while making efficient use of taxpayer funds.
- (7) Educational materials, including open educational resources, must be accessible to the widest possible range of individuals, including those with disabilities.

(6) Federal investment in expanding the use of open educational resources has lowered college textbook costs and reduced financial barriers to higher education, while making efficient use of taxpayer funds.

(7) Educational materials, including open educational resources, must be accessible to the widest possible range of individuals, including those with disabilities.

SEC. 3. OPEN TEXTBOOK GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "institution of higher education" has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(2) OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE.—The term "open educational resource" has the meaning given the term in section 133 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015b).

(3) **OPEN TEXTBOOK.**—The term “open textbook” means an open educational resource or set of open educational resources that either is a textbook or can be used in place of a textbook for a postsecondary course at an institution of higher education.

(4) **RELEVANT FACULTY.**—The term “relevant faculty” means both tenure track and contingent faculty members who may be involved in the creation or use of open textbooks created as part of an application under subsection (d).

(5) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

(6) **SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL.**—The term “supplemental material” has the meaning given the term in section 133 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015b).

(b) **GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—From the amounts appropriated under subsection (k), the Secretary shall make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to support projects that expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students while maintaining or improving instruction and student learning outcomes.

(c) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—In this section, the term “eligible entity” means an institution of higher education, a consortium of institutions of higher education, or a consortium of States on behalf of institutions of higher education.

(d) **APPLICATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each eligible entity desiring a grant under this section, after consultation with relevant faculty, shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the project to be completed with grant funds and—

(A) a plan for promoting and tracking the use of open textbooks in postsecondary courses offered by the eligible entity and across participating members of the consortium, where applicable, including an estimate of the projected savings that will be achieved for students;

(B) a plan for identifying gaps in the open textbook marketplace in courses that are part of degree-granting programs, which may include a plan for evaluating, before creating new open textbooks, whether existing open textbooks could be used or adapted for the same purpose, and in the case that a gap exists, creating new open textbooks;

(C) a plan for quality review and review of accuracy of any open textbooks to be created or adapted through the grant;

(D) a plan for assessing the impact of open textbooks on instruction, student learning outcomes, course outcomes, and educational costs at the eligible entity and across participating members of the consortium, where applicable;

(E) a plan for disseminating information about the results of the project to institutions of higher education outside of the eligible entity, including promoting the adoption of any open textbooks created or adapted through the grant;

(F) a statement on consultation with relevant faculty, including those engaged in the creation of open textbooks, in the development of the application;

(G) a plan for professional development to build the capacity of faculty, instructors, and other staff to adapt and use open textbooks; and

(H) a plan for updating the open textbooks beyond the funded period.

(e) **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give special consideration to applica-

tions that demonstrate the greatest potential to—

(1) achieve the highest level of savings for students through sustainable expanded use of open textbooks in postsecondary courses offered by the eligible entity;

(2) expand the use of open textbooks at institutions of higher education outside of the eligible entity; and

(3) produce—

(A) the highest quality open textbooks;

(B) open textbooks that can be most easily utilized and adapted by faculty members at institutions of higher education;

(C) open textbooks that correspond to the highest enrollment courses at institutions of higher education;

(D) open textbooks created or adapted in partnership with entities within institutions of higher education, including campus bookstores, that will assist in marketing and distribution of the open textbook; and

(E) open textbooks that are accessible to students with disabilities.

(f) **USE OF FUNDS.**—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out any of the following activities to expand the use of open textbooks:

(1) Professional development for any faculty and staff members at institutions of higher education, including the search for and review of open textbooks.

(2) Creation or adaptation of open textbooks.

(3) Development or improvement of supplemental materials and informational resources that are necessary to support the use of open textbooks, including accessible instructional materials for students with disabilities.

(4) Research evaluating the efficacy of the use of open textbooks for achieving savings for students and the impact on instruction and student learning outcomes.

(g) **LICENSE.**—For each open textbook, supplemental material, or informational resource created or adapted wholly or in part under this section that constitutes a new copyrightable work, the eligible entity receiving the grant shall release such textbook, material, or resource to the public under a non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual, and irrevocable license to exercise any of the rights under copyright conditioned only on the requirement that attribution be given as directed by the copyright owner.

(h) **ACCESS AND DISTRIBUTION.**—The full and complete digital content of each open textbook, supplemental material, or informational resource created or adapted wholly or in part under this section shall be made available free of charge to the public—

(1) on an easily accessible and interoperable website, which shall be identified to the Secretary by the eligible entity;

(2) in a machine readable, digital format that anyone can directly download, edit with attribution, and redistribute;

(3) in a format that conforms to accessibility standards under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d), where feasible; and

(4) with identifying information, including the title, edition, author, publisher, copyright date, and International Standard Book Number, if available.

(i) **REPORT.**—Upon an eligible entity's completion of a project supported under this section, the eligible entity shall prepare and submit a report to the Secretary regarding—

(1) the effectiveness of the project in expanding the use of open textbooks and in achieving savings for students;

(2) the impact of the project on expanding the use of open textbooks at institutions of higher education outside of the eligible entity;

(3) open textbooks, supplemental materials, and informational resources created or adapted wholly or in part under the grant, including instructions on where the public can access each educational resource under the terms of subsection (h);

(4) the impact of the project on instruction and student learning outcomes; and

(5) all project costs, including the value of any volunteer labor and institutional capital used for the project.

(j) **ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall prepare and submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives detailing—

(1) the open textbooks, supplemental materials, and informational resources created or adapted wholly or in part under this section;

(2) the adoption of such open textbooks, including outside of the eligible entity;

(3) the savings generated for students, States, and the Federal Government through projects supported under this section; and

(4) the impact of projects supported under this section on instruction and student learning outcomes.

(k) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as are necessary.

SEC. 4. TEXTBOOK PRICE INFORMATION.

Section 133 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6) **OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE.**—The term ‘open educational resource’ means a teaching, learning, or research resource that is offered freely to users in at least one form and that resides in the public domain or has been released under an open copyright license that allows for its free use, reuse, modification, and sharing with attribution.”;

and

(B) in paragraph (9), by striking “textbook that” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “textbook that may include printed materials, website access, and electronically distributed materials.”;

(2) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “or other person or adopting entity in charge of selecting course materials” and inserting “or other person or entity in charge of selecting or aiding in the discovery and procurement of course materials”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “such institution of higher education or to” after “would make the college textbook or supplemental material available to”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) Whether the college textbook or supplemental material is an open educational resource.

“(F) For a college textbook or supplemental material delivered primarily in a digital format, a summary of terms and conditions under which a publisher collects and uses student data through the student's use of such college textbook or supplemental material, including whether a student can opt out of such terms and conditions.”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “ISBN”;

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) verify and disclose, on (or linked from) the institution's Internet course schedule, for each course listed in such course schedule, and in a manner of the institution's

choosing (except that if the institution determines that the disclosure of the information described in this subsection is not practicable or available for a college textbook or supplemental material, then the institution shall indicate the status of such information in lieu of the information required under this subsection)—

“(A) the International Standard Book Number of required and recommended college textbooks and supplemental materials, except that if the International Standard Book Number is not available for such college textbook or supplemental material, then the institution shall include in the Internet course schedule the author, title, publisher, and copyright date for such college textbook or supplemental material;

“(B) the retail price of required and recommended college textbooks and supplemental materials;

“(C) any applicable fee information of required and recommended college textbooks and supplemental materials;

“(D) whether each required and recommended college textbook and supplemental material is an open educational resource; and

“(E) for a college textbook or supplemental material delivered primarily in a digital format, a link to the summary required to be provided by the publisher under subsection (c)(1)(F); and”;

(4) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION FOR COLLEGE BOOKSTORES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An institution of higher education receiving Federal financial assistance shall assist a college bookstore that is operated by, or in a contractual relationship or otherwise affiliated with, the institution, in obtaining required and recommended course materials information and such course schedule and enrollment information as is reasonably required to implement this section so that such bookstore may—

“(A) verify availability of such materials;

“(B) source lower cost options, including presenting lower cost alternatives to faculty for faculty to consider, when practicable; and

“(C) maximize the availability of format options for students.

“(2) DUE DATES.—In carrying out paragraph (1), an institution of higher education may establish due dates for faculty or departments to notify the campus bookstore of required and recommended course materials.”; and

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) available open educational resources.”;

SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that institutions of higher education should encourage the consideration of open textbooks by faculty within the generally accepted principles of academic freedom that establishes the right and responsibility of faculty members, individually and collectively, to select course materials that are pedagogically most appropriate for their classes.

SEC. 6. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives on the cost of textbooks to students at institutions of higher education. The report shall particularly examine—

(1) the implementation of section 133 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015b), as amended by section 4, including—

(A) the availability of college textbook and open educational resource information on course schedules;

(B) the compliance of publishers with applicable requirements under such section; and

(C) the costs and benefits to institutions of higher education and to students;

(2) the change in the cost of textbooks;

(3) the factors, including open textbooks, that have contributed to the change of the cost of textbooks;

(4) the extent to which open textbooks are used at institutions of higher education; and

(5) how institutions are tracking the impact of open textbooks on instruction and student learning outcomes.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 979. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform and reduce fraud and abuse in certain visa programs for aliens working temporarily in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 979

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “H-1B and L-1 Visa Reform Act of 2023”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—H-1B VISA FRAUD AND ABUSE PROTECTIONS

Subtitle A—H-1B Employer Application Requirements

Sec. 101. Modification of application requirements.

Sec. 102. New application requirements.

Sec. 103. Application review requirements.

Sec. 104. H-1B visa allocation.

Sec. 105. H-1B workers employed by institutions of higher education.

Sec. 106. Specialty occupation to require an actual degree.

Sec. 107. Labor condition application fee.

Sec. 108. H-1B subpoena authority for the Department of Labor.

Sec. 109. Limitation on extension of H-1B petition.

Sec. 110. Elimination of B-1 visas in lieu of H-1 visas.

Subtitle B—Investigation and Disposition of Complaints Against H-1B Employers

Sec. 111. General modification of procedures for investigation and disposition.

Sec. 112. Investigation, working conditions, and penalties.

Sec. 113. Waiver requirements.

Sec. 114. Initiation of investigations.

Sec. 115. Information sharing.

Sec. 116. Conforming amendment.

Subtitle C—Other Protections

Sec. 121. Posting available positions through the Department of Labor.

Sec. 122. Transparency and report on wage system.

Sec. 123. Requirements for information for H-1B and L-1 nonimmigrants.

Sec. 124. Additional Department of Labor employees.

Sec. 125. Technical correction.

Sec. 126. Application.

TITLE II—L-1 VISA FRAUD AND ABUSE PROTECTIONS

Sec. 201. Prohibition on displacement of United States workers and restricting outplacement of L-1 nonimmigrants.

Sec. 202. L-1 employer petition requirements for employment at new offices.

Sec. 203. Cooperation with Secretary of State.

Sec. 204. Investigation and disposition of complaints against L-1 employers.

Sec. 205. Wage rate and working conditions for L-1 nonimmigrants.

Sec. 206. Penalties.

Sec. 207. Prohibition on retaliation against L-1 nonimmigrants.

Sec. 208. Adjudication by Department of Homeland Security of petitions under blanket petition.

Sec. 209. Reports on employment-based nonimmigrants.

Sec. 210. Specialized knowledge.

Sec. 211. Technical amendments.

Sec. 212. Application.

TITLE I—H-1B VISA FRAUD AND ABUSE PROTECTIONS

Subtitle A—H-1B Employer Application Requirements

SEC. 101. MODIFICATION OF APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) GENERAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 212(n)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) The employer—

“(i) is offering and will offer to H-1B nonimmigrants, during the period of authorized employment for each H-1B nonimmigrant, wages that are determined based on the best information available at the time the application is filed and which are not less than the highest of—

“(I) the locally determined prevailing wage level for the occupational classification in the area of employment;

“(II) the median wage for all workers in the occupational classification in the area of employment; and

“(III) the median wage for skill level 2 in the occupational classification found in the most recent Occupational Employment Statistics survey; and

“(ii) will provide working conditions for such H-1B nonimmigrant that will not adversely affect the working conditions of United States workers similarly employed by the employer or by an employer with which such H-1B nonimmigrant is placed pursuant to a waiver under paragraph (2)(E).”;

(b) INTERNET POSTING REQUIREMENT.—Section 212(n)(1)(C) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)(C)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clause (ii) as subclause (II);

(2) by striking “(i) has provided” and inserting the following:

“(ii)(I) has provided”; and

(3) by inserting before clause (ii), as redesignated by paragraph (2), the following:

“(i) has posted on the Internet website described in paragraph (3), for at least 30 calendar days, a detailed description of each position for which a nonimmigrant is sought that includes a description of—

“(I) the wages and other terms and conditions of employment;

“(II) the minimum education, training, experience, and other requirements for the position; and

“(III) the process for applying for the position; and”.

(c) **WAGE DETERMINATION INFORMATION.**—Section 212(n)(1)(D) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)(D)) is amended by inserting “the wage determination methodology used under subparagraph (A)(i),” after “shall contain”.

(d) **APPLICATION OF REQUIREMENTS TO ALL EMPLOYERS.**—

(1) **NONDISPLACEMENT.**—Section 212(n)(1)(E) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)(E)) is amended to read as follows:

“(E)(i) The employer—

“(I) will not at any time displace a United States worker with 1 or more H-1B nonimmigrants; and

“(II) did not displace and will not displace a United States worker employed by the employer within the period beginning 180 days before and ending 180 days after the date of the placement of the nonimmigrant with the employer.

“(ii) The 180-day periods referred to in clause (i) may not include any period of on-site or virtual training of H-1B nonimmigrants by employees of the employer.”.

(2) **RECRUITMENT.**—Section 212(n)(1)(G)(i) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)(G)(i)) is amended by striking “In the case of an application described in subparagraph (E)(ii), subject” and inserting “Subject”.

(e) **WAIVER REQUIREMENT.**—Section 212(n)(1)(F) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)(F)) is amended to read as follows:

“(F) The employer will not place, outsource, lease, or otherwise contract for the services or placement of H-1B nonimmigrants with another employer, regardless of the physical location where such services will be performed, unless the employer of the alien has been granted a waiver under paragraph (2)(E).”.

SEC. 102. NEW APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.

Section 212(n)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)), as amended by section 101, is further amended by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

“(H)(i) The employer, or a person or entity acting on the employer’s behalf, has not advertised any available position specified in the application in an advertisement that states or indicates that—

“(I) such position is only available to an individual who is or will be an H-1B nonimmigrant; or

“(II) an individual who is or will be an H-1B nonimmigrant shall receive priority or a preference in the hiring process for such position.

“(ii) The employer has not primarily recruited individuals who are or who will be H-1B nonimmigrants to fill such position.

“(I) If the employer employs 50 or more employees in the United States—

“(i) the sum of the number of such employees who are H-1B nonimmigrants plus the number of such employees who are nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L) does not exceed 50 percent of the total number of employees; and

“(ii) the employer’s corporate organization has not been restructured to evade the limitation under clause (i).

“(J) If the employer, in such previous period as the Secretary shall specify, employed 1 or more H-1B nonimmigrants, the employer shall submit to the Secretary the Internal Revenue Service Form W-2 Wage and Tax Statements filed by the employer with respect to the H-1B nonimmigrants for such period.”.

SEC. 103. APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**—Section 212(n)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality

Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)), as amended by sections 101 and 102, is further amended, in the undesignated paragraph at the end, by striking “The employer” and inserting the following:

“(K) The employer.”.

(b) **APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 212(n)(1)(K), as designated by subsection (a), is amended—

(1) in the fourth sentence, by inserting “and through the Department of Labor’s website, without charge.” after “D.C.”;

(2) in the fifth sentence, by striking “only for completeness” and inserting “for completeness, indicators of fraud or misrepresentation of material fact,”;

(3) in the sixth sentence—

(A) by striking “or obviously inaccurate” and inserting “, presents indicators of fraud or misrepresentation of material fact, or is obviously inaccurate”;

(B) by striking “within 7 days of” and inserting “not later than 14 days after”;

(4) by adding at the end the following: “If the Secretary of Labor’s review of an application identifies indicators of fraud or misrepresentation of material fact, the Secretary may conduct an investigation and hearing in accordance with paragraph (2).”.

SEC. 104. H-1B VISA ALLOCATION.

Section 214(g)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)(3)), is amended—

(1) by striking the first sentence and inserting the following:

“(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), aliens who are subject to the numerical limitations under paragraph (1)(A) shall be issued visas, or otherwise provided nonimmigrant status, in a manner and order established by the Secretary of Homeland Security, by regulation.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) The Secretary shall consider petitions for nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) in the following order:

“(i) Petitions for nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(F) who, while physically present in the United States, have earned an advanced degree in a field of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics from a United States institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))) that has been accredited by an accrediting entity that is recognized by the Department of Education.

“(ii) Petitions certifying that the employer will be paying the nonimmigrant the median wage for skill level 4 in the occupational classification found in the most recent Occupational Employment Statistics survey.

“(iii) Petitions for nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(F) who are graduates of any other advanced degree program, undertaken while physically present in the United States, from an institution of higher education described in clause (i).

“(iv) Petitions certifying that the employer will be paying the nonimmigrant the median wage for skill level 3 in the occupational classification found in the most recent Occupational Employment Statistics survey.

“(v) Petitions for nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(F) who are graduates of a bachelor’s degree program, undertaken while physically present in the United States, in a field of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics from an institution of higher education described in clause (i).

“(vi) Petitions for nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(F) who are graduates of bachelor’s degree programs, undertaken while physically present in the United

States, in any other fields from an institution of higher education described in clause (i).

“(vii) Petitions for aliens who will be working in occupations listed in Group I of the Department of Labor’s Schedule A of occupations in which the Secretary of Labor has determined there are not sufficient United States workers who are able, willing, qualified, and available.

“(viii) Petitions filed by employers meeting the following criteria of good corporate citizenship and compliance with the immigration laws:

“(I) The employer is in possession of—

“(aa) a valid E-Verify company identification number; or

“(bb) if the enterprise is using a designated agent to perform E-Verify queries, a valid E-Verify client company identification number and documentation from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that the commercial enterprise is a participant in good standing in the E-Verify program.

“(II) The employer is not under investigation by any Federal agency for violation of the immigration laws or labor laws.

“(III) A Federal agency has not determined, during the immediately preceding 5 years, that the employer violated the immigration laws or labor laws.

“(IV) During each of the preceding 3 fiscal years, at least 90 percent of the petitions filed by the employer under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) were approved.

“(V) The employer has filed, pursuant to section 204(a)(1)(F), employment-based immigrant petitions, including an approved labor certification application under section 212(a)(5)(A), for at least 90 percent of employees imported under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) during the preceding 3 fiscal years.

“(ix) Any remaining petitions.

“(C) In this paragraph the term ‘field of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics’ means a field included in the Department of Education’s Classification of Instructional Programs taxonomy within the summary groups of computer and information sciences and support services, engineering, biological and biomedical sciences, mathematics and statistics, and physical sciences.”.

SEC. 105. H-1B WORKERS EMPLOYED BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Section 214(g)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)(5)) is amended by striking “is employed (or has received an offer of employment) at” each place such phrase appears and inserting “is employed by (or has received an offer of employment from)”.

SEC. 106. SPECIALTY OCCUPATION TO REQUIRE AN ACTUAL DEGREE.

Section 214(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(i)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) attainment of a bachelor’s or higher degree in the specific specialty directly related to the occupation as a minimum for entry into the occupation in the United States.”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) For purposes of section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b), the requirements under this paragraph, with respect to a specialty occupation, are—

“(A) full State licensure to practice in the occupation, if such licensure is required to practice in the occupation; or

“(B) if a license is not required to practice in the occupation—

“(i) completion of a United States degree described in paragraph (1)(B) for the occupation; or

“(ii) completion of a foreign degree that is equivalent to a United States degree described in paragraph (1)(B) for the occupation.”.

SEC. 107. LABOR CONDITION APPLICATION FEE.

Section 212(n) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)), as amended by sections 101 through 103, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6)(A) The Secretary of Labor shall promulgate a regulation that requires applicants under this subsection to pay a reasonable application processing fee.

“(B) All of the fees collected under this paragraph shall be deposited as offsetting receipts within the general fund of the Treasury in a separate account, which shall be known as the ‘H-1B Administration, Oversight, Investigation, and Enforcement Account’ and shall remain available until expended. The Secretary of the Treasury shall refund amounts in such account to the Secretary of Labor for salaries and related expenses associated with the administration, oversight, investigation, and enforcement of the H-1B nonimmigrant visa program.”.

SEC. 108. H-1B SUBPOENA AUTHORITY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

Section 212(n)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as subparagraph (J); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the following:

“(I) The Secretary of Labor is authorized to take such actions, including issuing subpoenas and seeking appropriate injunctive relief and specific performance of contractual obligations, as may be necessary to ensure employer compliance with the terms and conditions under this subsection. The rights and remedies provided to H-1B nonimmigrants under this subsection are in addition to any other contractual or statutory rights and remedies of such nonimmigrants and are not intended to alter or affect such rights and remedies.”.

SEC. 109. LIMITATION ON EXTENSION OF H-1B PETITION.

Section 214(g)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

“(4)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the period of authorized admission of a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) may not exceed 3 years.

“(B) The period of authorized admission of a nonimmigrant described in subparagraph (A) who is the beneficiary of an approved employment-based immigrant petition under section 204(a)(1)(F) may be authorized for a period of up to 3 additional years if the total period of stay does not exceed six years, except for an extension under section 104(c) or 106(b) of the American Competitiveness in the Twenty-first Century Act of 2000 (8 U.S.C. 1184 note).”.

SEC. 110. ELIMINATION OF B-1 VISAS IN LIEU OF H-1 VISAS.

Section 214(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(12) Unless otherwise authorized by law, an alien normally classifiable under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i) who seeks admission to the United States to provide services in a specialty occupation described in paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection (i) may not be issued a visa or admitted under section 101(a)(15)(B) for such purpose. Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to authorize the admission of an alien under section 101(a)(15)(B) who is coming to the United States for the purpose of performing skilled or unskilled labor if such admission is not otherwise authorized by law.”.

Subtitle B—Investigation and Disposition of Complaints Against H-1B Employers

SEC. 111. GENERAL MODIFICATION OF PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATION AND DISPOSITION.

Section 212(n)(2)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(A) Subject” and inserting the following:

“(A)(i) Subject”;

(2) by striking “12 months” and inserting “two years”;

(3) by striking the last sentence; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii)(I) Upon the receipt of a complaint under clause (i), the Secretary may initiate an investigation to determine if such failure or misrepresentation has occurred.

“(II) In conducting an investigation under subclause (I), the Secretary may—

“(aa) conduct surveys of the degree to which employers comply with the requirements under this subsection; and

“(bb) conduct compliance audits of employers that employ H-1B nonimmigrants.

“(III) The Secretary shall—

“(aa) conduct annual compliance audits of not fewer than 1 percent of the employers that employ H-1B nonimmigrants during the applicable calendar year;

“(bb) conduct annual compliance audits of each employer with more than 100 employees who work in the United States if more than 15 percent of such employees are H-1B nonimmigrants; and

“(cc) make available to the public an executive summary or report describing the general findings of the audits carried out pursuant to this subclause.

“(iii) The process for receiving complaints under clause (i) shall include a hotline that is accessible 24 hours a day, by telephonic and electronic means.”.

SEC. 112. INVESTIGATION, WORKING CONDITIONS, AND PENALTIES.

Section 212(n)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(C)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “a condition of paragraph (1)(B), (1)(E), or (1)(F), a substantial failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1)(C), (1)(D), or (1)(G)(i)(I)” and inserting “a condition under subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), (G)(i), (H), (I), or (J) of paragraph (1)”;

(B) in subclause (I)—

(i) by striking “\$1,000” and inserting “\$5,000”; and

(ii) by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in subclause (II)—

(i) by striking “the Attorney General shall not approve petitions” and inserting “the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Secretary of State, as appropriate, shall not approve petitions or applications”;

(ii) by striking “under section 204 or 214(c)” and inserting “under section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii), 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1), 204, 214(c), or 214(e)”;

(iii) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(III) An employer that violates paragraph (1)(A) shall be liable to the employees harmed by such violation for lost wages and benefits.”;

(2) in clause (ii)—

(A) in subclause (I)—

(i) by striking “may” and inserting “shall”; and

(ii) by striking “\$5,000” and inserting “\$25,000”;

(B) in subclause (II)—

(i) by striking “the Attorney General shall not approve petitions” and inserting “the

Secretary of Homeland Security or the Secretary of State, as appropriate, shall not approve petitions or applications”;

(ii) by striking “under section 204 or 214(c)” and inserting “under section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii), 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1), 204, 214(c), or 214(e)”;

(iii) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(III) An employer that violates paragraph (1)(A) shall be liable to the employees harmed by such violation for lost wages and benefits.”;

(3) in clause (iii)—

(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “the employer displaced a United States worker employed by the employer within the period beginning 90 days before and ending 90 days after the date of filing of any visa petition supported by the application” and inserting “a United States worker employed at a worksite that the employer supplies with nonimmigrant workers was displaced in violation of paragraph (1)(E) or the conditions of a waiver under subparagraph (E)”;

(B) in subclause (I)—

(i) by striking “may” and inserting “shall”;

(ii) by striking “\$35,000” and inserting “\$150,000”; and

(iii) by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in subclause (II)—

(i) by striking “the Attorney General shall not approve petitions” and inserting “the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Secretary of State, as appropriate, shall not approve petitions or applications”;

(ii) by striking “under section 204 or 214(c)” and inserting “under section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii), 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1), 204, 214(c), or 214(e)”;

(iii) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(III) An employer that violates paragraph (1)(A) shall be liable to the employees harmed by such violation for lost wages and benefits.”;

(4) by striking clause (iv) and inserting the following:

“(iv)(I) An employer that has filed an application under this subsection violates this clause by taking, failing to take, or threatening to take or fail to take a personnel action, or intimidating, threatening, restraining, coercing, blacklisting, discharging, or discriminating in any other manner against an employee because the employee—

“(aa) disclosed information that the employee reasonably believes evidences a violation of this subsection or any rule or regulation pertaining to this subsection; or

“(bb) cooperated or sought to cooperate with the requirements under this subsection or any rule or regulation pertaining to this subsection.

“(II) In this subparagraph, the term ‘employee’ includes—

“(aa) a current employee;

“(bb) a former employee; and

“(cc) an applicant for employment.

“(III) An employer that violates this clause shall be liable to the employee harmed by such violation for lost wages and benefits.”;

(5) in clause (v)—

(A) by inserting “(I)” after “(v)”;

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(II) Upon the termination of an H-1B nonimmigrant’s employment on account of such alien’s disclosure of information or cooperation in an investigation described in clause (iv), the nonimmigrant stay of any beneficiary and any dependents listed on the beneficiary’s petition will be authorized and

the alien will not accrue any period of unlawful presence under section 212(a)(9) for a 90-day period or until the expiration of the authorized validity period, whichever comes first, following the date of such termination for the purpose of departure or extension of nonimmigrant status based upon a subsequent offer of employment.”; and

(6) in clause (vi)—

(A) by amending subclause (I) to read as follows:

“(I) It is a violation of this clause for an employer that has filed an application under this subsection—

“(aa) to require an H-1B nonimmigrant to pay a penalty or liquidated damages for ceasing employment with the employer before a date agreed to by the nonimmigrant and the employer; or

“(bb) to fail to offer to an H-1B nonimmigrant, during the nonimmigrant’s period of authorized employment, on the same basis, and in accordance with the same criteria, as the employer offers to United States workers, benefits and eligibility for benefits, including—

“(AA) the opportunity to participate in health, life, disability, and other insurance plans;

“(BB) the opportunity to participate in retirement and savings plans; and

“(CC) cash bonuses and noncash compensation, such as stock options (whether or not based on performance).”;

(B) in subclause (III), by striking “\$1,000” and inserting “\$5,000”.

SEC. 113. WAIVER REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 212(n)(2)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(E)) is amended to read as follows:

“(E)(i) The Secretary of Labor may waive the prohibition under paragraph (1)(F) if the Secretary determines that the employer seeking such waiver has established that—

“(I) the employer with which the H-1B nonimmigrant would be placed—

“(aa) will not at any time displace a United States worker with 1 or more H-1B nonimmigrants; and

“(bb) has not displaced and will not displace a United States worker employed by the employer within the period beginning 180 days before the date of the placement of the nonimmigrant with the employer and ending 180 days after such date (not including any period of on-site or virtual training of H-1B nonimmigrants by employees of the employer);

“(II) the H-1B nonimmigrant will be principally controlled and supervised by the petitioning employer; and

“(III) the placement of the H-1B nonimmigrant is not essentially an arrangement to provide labor for hire for the employer with which the H-1B nonimmigrant will be placed.

“(ii) The Secretary shall grant or deny a waiver under this subparagraph not later than seven days after the date on which the Secretary receives an application for such waiver.”.

(b) RULEMAKING.—

(1) RULES FOR WAIVERS.—The Secretary of Labor, after notice and a period for comment, shall promulgate a final rule for an employer to apply for a waiver under section 212(n)(2)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by subsection (a).

(2) REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLICATION.—The Secretary of Labor shall submit to Congress, and publish in the Federal Register and in other appropriate media, a notice of the date on which the rules required under paragraph (1) are promulgated.

SEC. 114. INITIATION OF INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 212(n)(2)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(G)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “if the Secretary of Labor” and all that follows and inserting “with regard to the employer’s compliance with the requirements under this subsection.”;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking “and whose identity” and all that follows through “failure or failures,” and inserting “the Secretary may conduct an investigation into the employer’s compliance with the requirements under this subsection.”;

(3) in clause (iii), by striking the last sentence;

(4) by striking clauses (iv) and (v);

(5) by redesignating clauses (vi), (vii), and (viii) as clauses (iv), (v), and (vi), respectively;

(6) in clause (iv), as redesignated, by striking “meet a condition described in clause (ii), unless the Secretary of Labor receives the information not later than 12 months” and inserting “comply with the requirements under this subsection unless the Secretary of Labor receives the information not later than 2 years”;

(7) by amending clause (v), as redesignated, to read as follows:

“(v)(I) Except as provided in subclause (II), the Secretary of Labor shall provide notice to an employer of the intent to conduct an investigation under this subparagraph. Such notice shall be provided in such a manner, and shall contain sufficient detail, to permit the employer to respond to the allegations before an investigation is commenced.

“(II) The Secretary of Labor is not required to comply with subclause (I) if the Secretary determines that such compliance would interfere with an effort by the Secretary to investigate or secure compliance by the employer with the requirements under this subsection.

“(III) A determination by the Secretary of Labor under this clause shall not be subject to judicial review.”;

(8) in clause (vi), as redesignated, by striking “An investigation” and all that follows through “the determination.” and inserting “If the Secretary of Labor, after an investigation under clause (i) or (ii), determines that a reasonable basis exists to make a finding that the employer has failed to comply with the requirements under this subsection, the Secretary, not later than 120 days after the date of such determination, shall provide interested parties with notice of such determination and an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with section 556 of title 5, United States Code.”; and

(9) by adding at the end the following:

“(vii) If the Secretary of Labor, after a hearing, finds a reasonable basis to believe that the employer has violated the requirements under this subsection, the Secretary shall impose a penalty in accordance with subparagraph (C).”.

SEC. 115. INFORMATION SHARING.

Section 212(n)(2)(H) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(H)) is amended to read as follows:

“(H) The Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall provide the Secretary of Labor with any information contained in the materials submitted by employers of H-1B nonimmigrants as part of the petition adjudication process that indicates that the employer is not complying with visa program requirements for H-1B nonimmigrants. The Secretary may initiate and conduct an investigation and hearing under this paragraph after receiving information of noncompliance under this subparagraph.”.

SEC. 116. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

Section 212(n)(2)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(F)) is amended by striking “The preceding sen-

tence shall apply to an employer regardless of whether or not the employer is an H-1B dependent employer.”.

Subtitle C—Other Protections

SEC. 121. POSTING AVAILABLE POSITIONS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WEBSITE.—Section 212(n)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3)(A) Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the H-1B and L-1 Visa Reform Act of 2023, the Secretary of Labor shall establish a searchable Internet website for posting positions in accordance with paragraph (1)(C) that is available to the public without charge.

“(B) The Secretary may work with private companies or nonprofit organizations to develop and operate the Internet website described in subparagraph (A).

“(C) The Secretary may promulgate rules, after notice and a period for comment, to carry out this paragraph.”.

(b) PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Labor shall submit to Congress, and publish in the Federal Register and in other appropriate media, a notice of the date on which the Internet website required under section 212(n)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by subsection (a), will be operational.

(c) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to any application filed on or after the date that is 30 days after the date described in subsection (b).

SEC. 122. TRANSPARENCY AND REPORT ON WAGE SYSTEM.

(a) IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS.—Section 204 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(m) EMPLOYER TO PROVIDE IMMIGRATION PAPERWORK EXCHANGED WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 21 business days after receiving a written request from a former, current, or prospective employee listed as the beneficiary of an employment-based nonimmigrant petition, the employer who filed such petition shall provide such beneficiary with the original (or a certified copy of the original) of all petitions, notices, and other written communication exchanged between the employer and the Department of Labor, the Department of Homeland Security, or any other Federal agency or department that is related to an immigrant or nonimmigrant petition filed by the employer for such employee or beneficiary.

“(2) WITHHOLDING OF FINANCIAL OR PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.—If a document required to be provided to an employee or prospective employee under paragraph (1) includes any sensitive financial or proprietary information of the employer, the employer may redact such information from the copies provided to such person.”.

(b) GAO REPORT ON JOB CLASSIFICATION AND WAGE DETERMINATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare a report that—

(1) analyzes the accuracy and effectiveness of the Secretary of Labor’s current job classification and wage determination system;

(2) specifically addresses whether the systems in place accurately reflect the complexity of current job types and geographic wage differences; and

(3) makes recommendations concerning necessary updates and modifications.

SEC. 123. REQUIREMENTS FOR INFORMATION FOR H-1B AND L-1 NONIMMIGRANTS.

Section 214 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184), as amended by this

Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(s) REQUIREMENTS FOR INFORMATION FOR H-1B AND L-1 NONIMMIGRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon issuing a visa to an applicant, who is outside the United States, for nonimmigrant status pursuant to subparagraph (H)(i)(b) or (L) of section 101(a)(15), the issuing office shall provide the applicant with—

“(A) a brochure outlining the obligations of the applicant's employer and the rights of the applicant with regard to employment under Federal law, including labor and wage protections;

“(B) the contact information for appropriate Federal agencies or departments that offer additional information or assistance in clarifying such obligations and rights; and

“(C) a copy of the petition submitted for the nonimmigrant under section 212(n) or the petition submitted for the nonimmigrant under subsection (c)(2)(A), as appropriate.

“(2) APPLICANTS INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Upon the approval of an initial petition filed for an alien who is in the United States and seeking status under subparagraph (H)(i)(b) or (L) of section 101(a)(15), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide the applicant with the material described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1).”.

SEC. 124. ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENT OF LABOR EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor is authorized to hire up to 200 additional employees to administer, oversee, investigate, and enforce programs involving nonimmigrant employees described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b)).

(b) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—The cost of hiring the additional employees authorized to be hired under subsection (a) shall be recovered with funds from the H-1B Administration, Oversight, Investigation, and Enforcement Account established under section 212(n)(6) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 107.

SEC. 125. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Section 212 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182) is amended by redesignating the second subsection (t), as added by section 1(b)(2)(B) of the Act entitled “An Act to amend and extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998” (Public Law 108-449; 118 Stat. 3470), as subsection (u).

SEC. 126. APPLICATION.

Except as specifically otherwise provided, the amendments made by this title shall apply to petitions and applications filed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—L-1 VISA FRAUD AND ABUSE PROTECTIONS

SEC. 201. PROHIBITION ON DISPLACEMENT OF UNITED STATES WORKERS AND RESTRICTING OUTPLACEMENT OF L-1 NONIMMIGRANTS.

(a) RESTRICTION ON OUTPLACEMENT OF L-1 WORKERS.—Section 214(c)(2)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(2)(F)) is amended to read as follows:

“(F)(i) Unless an employer receives a waiver under clause (ii), an employer may not employ an alien, for a cumulative period exceeding 1 year, who—

“(I) will serve in a capacity involving specialized knowledge with respect to an employer for purposes of section 101(a)(15)(L); and

“(II) will be stationed primarily at the worksite of an employer other than the petitioning employer or its affiliate, subsidiary, or parent, including pursuant to an outsourcing, leasing, or other contracting agreement.

“(ii) The Secretary of Labor may grant a waiver of the requirements under clause (i) if the Secretary determines that the employer requesting such waiver has established that—

“(I) the employer with which the alien referred to in clause (i) would be placed—

“(aa) will not at any time displace (as defined in section 212(n)(4)(B)) a United States worker (as defined in section 212(n)(4)(E)) with 1 or more nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L); and

“(bb) has not displaced and will not displace (as defined in section 212(n)(4)(B)) a United States worker (as defined in section 212(n)(4)(E)) employed by the employer within the period beginning 180 days before the date of the placement of such alien with the employer and ending 180 days after such date (not including any period of on-site or virtual training of nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L) by employees of the employer);

“(II) such alien will be principally controlled and supervised by the petitioning employer; and

“(III) the placement of the nonimmigrant is not essentially an arrangement to provide labor for hire for an unaffiliated employer with which the nonimmigrant will be placed, rather than a placement in connection with the provision of a product or service for which specialized knowledge specific to the petitioning employer is necessary.

“(iii) The Secretary shall grant or deny a waiver under clause (ii) not later than seven days after the date on which the Secretary receives the application for the waiver.”.

(b) PROHIBITION ON DISPLACEMENT OF UNITED STATES WORKERS.—Section 214(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(G)(i) An employer importing an alien as a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(L)—

“(I) may not at any time displace (as defined in section 212(n)(4)(B)) a United States worker (as defined in section 212(n)(4)(E)) with 1 or more such nonimmigrants; and

“(II) may not displace (as defined in section 212(n)(4)(B)) a United States worker (as defined in section 212(n)(4)(E)) employed by the employer during the period beginning 180 days before and ending 180 days after the date of the placement of such a nonimmigrant with the employer.

“(ii) The 180-day periods referenced in clause (i) may not include any period of on-site or virtual training of nonimmigrants described in clause (i) by employees of the employer.”.

(c) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, after notice and a period for comment, shall promulgate rules for an employer to apply for a waiver under section 214(c)(2)(F)(ii), as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 202. L-1 EMPLOYER PETITION REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT AT NEW OFFICES.

Section 214(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(2)), as amended by section 201, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(H)(i) If the beneficiary of a petition under this paragraph is coming to the United States to open, or to be employed in, a new office, the petition may be approved for up to 12 months only if—

“(I) the alien has not been the beneficiary of 2 or more petitions under this subparagraph during the immediately preceding 2 years; and

“(II) the employer operating the new office has—

“(aa) an adequate business plan;

“(bb) sufficient physical premises to carry out the proposed business activities; and

“(cc) the financial ability to commence doing business immediately upon the approval of the petition.

“(ii) An extension of the approval period under clause (i) may not be granted until the importing employer submits an application to the Secretary of Homeland Security that contains—

“(I) evidence that the importing employer meets the requirements of this subsection;

“(II) evidence that the beneficiary of the petition is eligible for nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(L);

“(III) a statement summarizing the original petition;

“(IV) evidence that the importing employer has fully complied with the business plan submitted under clause (i)(I);

“(V) evidence of the truthfulness of any representations made in connection with the filing of the original petition;

“(VI) evidence that the importing employer, for the entire period beginning on the date on which the petition was approved under clause (i), has been doing business at the new office through regular, systematic, and continuous provision of goods and services;

“(VII) a statement of the duties the beneficiary has performed at the new office during the approval period under clause (i) and the duties the beneficiary will perform at the new office during the extension period granted under this clause;

“(VIII) a statement describing the staffing at the new office, including the number of employees and the types of positions held by such employees;

“(IX) evidence of wages paid to employees;

“(X) evidence of the financial status of the new office; and

“(XI) any other evidence or data prescribed by the Secretary.

“(iii) A new office employing the beneficiary of an L-1 petition approved under this paragraph shall do business only through regular, systematic, and continuous provision of goods and services for the entire period for which the petition is sought.

“(iv) Notwithstanding clause (ii), and subject to the maximum period of authorized admission set forth in subparagraph (D), the Secretary of Homeland Security, in the Secretary's discretion, may approve a subsequently filed petition on behalf of the beneficiary to continue employment at the office described in this subparagraph for a period beyond the initially granted 12-month period if the importing employer has been doing business at the new office through regular, systematic, and continuous provision of goods and services for the 6 months immediately preceding the date of extension petition filing and demonstrates that the failure to satisfy any of the requirements described in those subclauses was directly caused by extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the Secretary in the Secretary's discretion.”.

SEC. 203. COOPERATION WITH SECRETARY OF STATE.

Section 214(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(2)), as amended by sections 201 and 202, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(I) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall work cooperatively with the Secretary of State to verify the existence or continued existence of a company or office in the United States or in a foreign country for purposes of approving petitions under this paragraph.”.

SEC. 204. INVESTIGATION AND DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST L-1 EMPLOYERS.

Section 214(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(2)), as

amended by sections 201 through 203, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(J)(i) The Secretary of Homeland Security may initiate an investigation of any employer that employs nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L) with regard to the employer’s compliance with the requirements under this subsection.

“(ii) If the Secretary receives specific credible information from a source who is likely to have knowledge of an employer’s practices, employment conditions, or compliance with the requirements under this subsection, the Secretary may conduct an investigation into the employer’s compliance with the requirements of this subsection. The Secretary may withhold the identity of the source from the employer, and the source’s identity shall not be subject to disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

“(iii) The Secretary shall establish a procedure for any person desiring to provide to the Secretary information described in clause (ii) that may be used, in whole or in part, as the basis for the commencement of an investigation described in such clause, to provide the information in writing on a form developed and provided by the Secretary and completed by or on behalf of the person.

“(iv) No investigation described in clause (ii) (or hearing described in clause (vi) based on such investigation) may be conducted with respect to information about a failure to comply with the requirements under this subsection, unless the Secretary receives the information not later than 24 months after the date of the alleged failure.

“(v) Before commencing an investigation of an employer under clause (i) or (ii), the Secretary shall provide notice to the employer of the intent to conduct such investigation. The notice shall be provided in such a manner, and shall contain sufficient detail, to permit the employer to respond to the allegations before an investigation is commenced. The Secretary is not required to comply with this clause if the Secretary determines that to do so would interfere with an effort by the Secretary to investigate or secure compliance by the employer with the requirements of this subsection. There shall be no judicial review of a determination by the Secretary under this clause.

“(vi) If the Secretary, after an investigation under clause (i) or (ii), determines that a reasonable basis exists to make a finding that the employer has failed to comply with the requirements under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide the interested parties with notice of such determination and an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with section 556 of title 5, United States Code, not later than 120 days after the date of such determination. If such a hearing is requested, the Secretary shall make a finding concerning the matter by not later than 120 days after the date of the hearing.

“(vii) If the Secretary, after a hearing, finds a reasonable basis to believe that the employer has violated the requirements under this subsection, the Secretary shall impose a penalty under subparagraph (L).

“(viii)(I) The Secretary may conduct surveys of the degree to which employers comply with the requirements under this section.

“(II) The Secretary shall—

“(aa) conduct annual compliance audits of not less than 1 percent of the employers that employ nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L) during the applicable fiscal year;

“(bb) conduct annual compliance audits of each employer with more than 100 employees who work in the United States if more than 15 percent of such employees are nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L); and

“(cc) make available to the public an executive summary or report describing the general findings of the audits carried out pursuant to this subclause.

“(ix) The Secretary is authorized to take other such actions, including issuing subpoenas and seeking appropriate injunctive relief and specific performance of contractual obligations, as may be necessary to assure employer compliance with the terms and conditions under this paragraph. The rights and remedies provided to nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L) under this paragraph are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other contractual or statutory rights and remedies of such nonimmigrants, and are not intended to alter or affect such rights and remedies.”.

SEC. 205. WAGE RATE AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR L-1 NONIMMIGRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 214(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(2)), as amended by sections 201 through 204, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(K)(i) An employer that employs a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(L) for a cumulative period of time in excess of 1 year shall—

“(I) offer such nonimmigrant, during the period of authorized employment, wages, based on the best information available at the time the application is filed, which are not less than the highest of—

“(aa) the locally determined prevailing wage level for the occupational classification in the area of employment;

“(bb) the median wage for all workers in the occupational classification in the area of employment; and

“(cc) the median wage for skill level 2 in the occupational classification found in the most recent Occupational Employment Statistics survey; and

“(II) provide working conditions for such nonimmigrant that will not adversely affect the working conditions of workers similarly employed by the employer or by an employer with which such nonimmigrant is placed pursuant to a waiver under subparagraph (F)(ii).

“(ii) If an employer, in such previous period specified by the Secretary of Homeland Security, employed 1 or more such nonimmigrants, the employer shall provide to the Secretary of Homeland Security the Internal Revenue Service Form W-2 Wage and Tax Statement filed by the employer with respect to such nonimmigrants for such period.

“(iii) It is a failure to meet a condition under this subparagraph for an employer who has filed a petition to import 1 or more aliens as nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L)—

“(I) to require such a nonimmigrant to pay a penalty or liquidated damages for ceasing employment with the employer before a date mutually agreed to by the nonimmigrant and the employer; or

“(II) to fail to offer to such a nonimmigrant, during the nonimmigrant’s period of authorized employment, on the same basis, and in accordance with the same criteria, as the employer offers to United States workers, benefits and eligibility for benefits, including—

“(aa) the opportunity to participate in health, life, disability, and other insurance plans;

“(bb) the opportunity to participate in retirement and savings plans; and

“(cc) cash bonuses and noncash compensation, such as stock options (whether or not based on performance).”.

(b) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, after notice and a period of comment and taking into consideration any special circumstances relating to

intracompany transfers, shall promulgate rules to implement the requirements under section 214(c)(2)(K) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 206. PENALTIES.

Section 214(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(2)), as amended by sections 201 through 205, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(L)(i) If the Secretary of Homeland Security determines, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, that an employer failed to meet a condition under subparagraph (F), (G), (K), or (M), or misrepresented a material fact in a petition to employ 1 or more aliens as nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L)—

“(I) the Secretary shall impose such administrative remedies (including civil monetary penalties in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 per violation) as the Secretary determines to be appropriate;

“(II) the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Secretary of State, as appropriate, shall not approve petitions or applications filed with respect to that employer during a period of at least 1 year for 1 or more aliens to be employed as such nonimmigrants by the employer; and

“(III) in the case of a violation of subparagraph (K) or (M), the employer shall be liable to the employees harmed by such violation for lost wages and benefits.

“(ii) If the Secretary finds, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, a willful failure by an employer to meet a condition under subparagraph (F), (G), (K), or (M) or a willful misrepresentation of material fact in a petition to employ 1 or more aliens as nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L)—

“(I) the Secretary shall impose such administrative remedies (including civil monetary penalties in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 per violation) as the Secretary determines to be appropriate;

“(II) the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Secretary of State, as appropriate, shall not approve petitions or applications filed with respect to that employer during a period of at least 2 years for 1 or more aliens to be employed as such nonimmigrants by the employer; and

“(III) in the case of a violation of subparagraph (K) or (M), the employer shall be liable to the employees harmed by such violation for lost wages and benefits.”.

SEC. 207. PROHIBITION ON RETALIATION AGAINST L-1 NONIMMIGRANTS.

Section 214(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(2)), as amended by sections 201 through 206, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(M)(i) An employer that has filed a petition to import 1 or more aliens as nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L) violates this subparagraph by taking, failing to take, or threatening to take or fail to take, a personnel action, or intimidating, threatening, restraining, coercing, blacklisting, discharging, or discriminating in any other manner against an employee because the employee—

“(I) has disclosed information that the employee reasonably believes evidences a violation of this subsection, or any rule or regulation pertaining to this subsection; or

“(II) cooperates or seeks to cooperate with the requirements under this subsection, or any rule or regulation pertaining to this subsection.

“(ii) Upon termination of the employment of an alien described in section 101(a)(15)(L) on account of actions by such alien described in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i), such

alien's nonimmigrant stay and the stay of any beneficiary and any dependents listed on the beneficiary's petition or application will be authorized and the aliens will not accrue any period of unlawful presence under section 212(a)(9) for a 90-day period or upon the expiration of the authorized validity period, whichever comes first, following the date of such termination for the purpose of departure or extension of nonimmigrant status based upon a subsequent offer of employment.

“(iii) In this subparagraph, the term ‘employee’ includes—

“(I) a current employee;

“(II) a former employee; and

“(III) an applicant for employment.”.

SEC. 208. ADJUDICATION BY DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY OF PETITIONS UNDER BLANKET PETITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 214(c)(2)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(2)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish a procedure under which an importing employer that meets the requirements established by the Secretary may file a blanket petition with the Secretary to authorize aliens to enter the United States as nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L) instead of filing individual petitions under paragraph (1) on behalf of such aliens. Such procedure shall permit—

“(i) the expedited adjudication by the Secretary of Homeland Security of individual petitions covered under such blanket petitions; and

“(ii) the expedited processing by the Secretary of State of visas for admission of aliens covered under such blanket petitions.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to petitions filed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 209. REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT-BASED NONIMMIGRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 214(c)(8) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(8)) is amended to read as follows—

“(8) The Secretary of Homeland Security or Secretary of State, as appropriate, shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that describes, with respect to petitions under subsection (e) and each subcategory of subparagraphs (H), (L), (O), (P), and (Q) of section 101(a)(15)—

“(A) the number of such petitions (or applications for admission, in the case of applications by Canadian nationals seeking admission under subsection (e) or section 101(a)(15)(L)) which have been filed;

“(B) the number of such petitions which have been approved and the number of workers (by occupation) included in such approved petitions;

“(C) the number of such petitions which have been denied and the number of workers (by occupation) requested in such denied petitions;

“(D) the number of such petitions which have been withdrawn;

“(E) the number of such petitions which are awaiting final action;

“(F) the number of aliens in the United States under each subcategory under section 101(a)(15)(H); and

“(G) the number of aliens in the United States under each subcategory under section 101(a)(15)(L).”.

(b) NONIMMIGRANT CHARACTERISTICS REPORT.—Section 416(c) of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1184 note) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) ANNUAL H-1B NONIMMIGRANT CHARACTERISTICS REPORT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that contains—

“(A) for the previous fiscal year—

“(i) information on the countries of origin of, occupations of, educational levels attained by, and compensation paid to, aliens who were issued visas or provided nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b));

“(ii) a list of all employers who petitioned for H-1B workers, the number of such petitions filed and approved for each such employer, the occupational classifications for the approved positions, and the number of H-1B nonimmigrants for whom each such employer filed an employment-based immigrant petition pursuant to section 204(a)(1)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154(a)(1)(F)); and

“(iii) the number of employment-based immigrant petitions filed pursuant to such section 204(a)(1)(F) on behalf of H-1B nonimmigrants;

“(B) a list of all employers for whom more than 15 percent of their United States workforce is H-1B or L-1 nonimmigrants;

“(C) a list of all employers for whom more than 50 percent of their United States workforce is H-1B or L-1 nonimmigrants;

“(D) a gender breakdown by occupation and by country of origin of H-1B nonimmigrants;

“(E) a list of all employers who have been granted a waiver under section 214(n)(2)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(n)(2)(E)); and

“(F) the number of H-1B nonimmigrants categorized by their highest level of education and whether such education was obtained in the United States or in a foreign country.”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (5);

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) ANNUAL L-1 NONIMMIGRANT CHARACTERISTICS REPORT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that contains—

“(A) for the previous fiscal year—

“(i) information on the countries of origin of, occupations of, educational levels attained by, and compensation paid to, aliens who were issued visas or provided nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(L) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(L));

“(ii) a list of all employers who petitioned for L-1 workers, the number of such petitions filed and approved for each such employer, the occupational classifications for the approved positions, and the number of L-1 nonimmigrants for whom each such employer filed an employment-based immigrant petition pursuant to section 204(a)(1)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154(a)(1)(F)); and

“(iii) the number of employment-based immigrant petitions filed pursuant to such section 204(a)(1)(F) on behalf of L-1 nonimmigrants;

“(B) a gender breakdown by occupation and by country of L-1 nonimmigrants;

“(C) a list of all employers who have been granted a waiver under section 214(c)(2)(F)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(2)(F)(ii));

“(D) the number of L-1 nonimmigrants categorized by their highest level of education and whether such education was ob-

tained in the United States or in a foreign country;

“(E) the number of applications that have been filed for each subcategory of nonimmigrant described under section 101(a)(15)(L) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(L)), based on an approved blanket petition under section 214(c)(2)(A) of such Act; and

“(F) the number of applications that have been approved for each subcategory of nonimmigrant described under such section 101(a)(15)(L), based on an approved blanket petition under such section 214(c)(2)(A).

“(4) ANNUAL H-1B EMPLOYER SURVEY.—The Secretary of Labor shall—

“(A) conduct an annual survey of employers hiring foreign nationals under the H-1B visa program; and

“(B) issue an annual report that—

“(i) describes the methods employers are using to meet the requirement under section 212(n)(1)(G)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)(G)(i)) of taking good faith steps to recruit United States workers for the occupational classification for which the nonimmigrants are sought, using procedures that meet industry-wide standards;

“(ii) describes the best practices for recruiting among employers; and

“(iii) contains recommendations on which recruiting steps employers can take to maximize the likelihood of hiring American workers.”; and

(4) in paragraph (5), as redesignated, by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and (3)”.

SEC. 210. SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE.

Section 214(c)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(2)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

“(B)(i) For purposes of section 101(a)(15)(L), the term ‘specialized knowledge’—

“(I) means knowledge possessed by an individual whose advanced level of expertise and proprietary knowledge of the employer's product, service, research, equipment, techniques, management, or other interests of the employer are not readily available in the United States labor market;

“(II) is clearly unique from those held by others employed in the same or similar occupations; and

“(III) does not apply to persons who have general knowledge or expertise which enables them merely to produce a product or provide a service.

“(ii)(I) The ownership of patented products or copyrighted works by a petitioner under section 101(a)(15)(L) does not establish that a particular employee has specialized knowledge. In order to meet the definition under clause (i), the beneficiary shall be a key person with knowledge that is critical for performance of the job duties and is protected from disclosure through patent, copyright, or company policy.

“(II) Unique procedures are not proprietary knowledge within this context unless the entire system and philosophy behind the procedures are clearly different from those of other firms, they are relatively complex, and they are protected from disclosure to competition.”.

SEC. 211. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 212(n)(5)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(5)(F)) is amended by striking “Department of Justice” and inserting “Department of Homeland Security”.

(b) PETITIONS FOR CERTAIN NONIMMIGRANT VISAS.—Section 214(c) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)) is amended by striking “Attorney General” each place such term appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”.

SEC. 212. APPLICATION.

Except as otherwise specifically provided, the amendments made by this title shall apply to petitions and applications filed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS**SENATE RESOLUTION 125—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF SOCIAL WORK MONTH AND WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY ON MARCH 21, 2023**

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 125

Whereas social workers enter the profession of social work because they have a strong desire to help empower the individuals, families, and communities of the United States to overcome issues that prevent them from reaching their full potential;

Whereas, for more than a century, social workers have improved human health and well-being and enhanced the basic needs of all individuals;

Whereas social workers follow a code of ethics that calls on them to fight social injustice and respect the dignity and worth of all individuals;

Whereas, each day, social workers positively touch the lives of millions of individuals in the United States in an array of settings, including schools, hospitals, the military, child welfare agencies, community centers, and Federal, State, and local governments;

Whereas the 2023 Social Work Month theme, “Social Work Breaks Barriers”, embodies how social workers help empower the individuals, families, and communities of the United States to overcome hurdles that prevent them from achieving better health and well-being;

Whereas social workers are one of the largest providers of mental health, behavioral health, and social care services in the United States, working daily to help thousands of individuals in the United States overcome mental illnesses, such as depression and anxiety, and meet basic needs;

Whereas social workers are on the frontlines of the addiction crisis in the United States, helping individuals get necessary treatment and prevail over substance use disorders;

Whereas social workers help individuals cope with death and grief;

Whereas social workers help people and communities recover from natural disasters that are increasingly fueled by a warming climate, including hurricanes, drought, and flooding;

Whereas social workers continue to help the United States live up to its values by advocating for equal rights for all, including people of color, people who are indigenous, people who are LBGTQIA2S+, and people who follow various faiths;

Whereas the social work profession is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States, but the workforce is still not large enough to meet the demand;

Whereas there is a need to make a meaningful investment in recruitment and retention within the social work profession;

Whereas social workers serve in all levels of government;

Whereas social workers have continued to push for changes that have made the United States a better place to live, including a liv-

able wage, improved workplace safety, and social safety net programs that help ameliorate poverty, hunger, and homelessness; and

Whereas social workers endeavor to work throughout society to meet individuals where they are and help empower those individuals and society to reach meaningful goals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Social Work Month and World Social Work Day on March 21, 2023;

(2) recognizes with gratitude the contributions of the millions of social workers who have advanced the health and well-being of individuals, families, communities, and the United States since the founding of the social work profession more than a century ago and who continue to do so today;

(3) acknowledges the diligent efforts of the individuals and groups who promote the importance of social work and observe Social Work Month and World Social Work Day; and

(4) encourages individuals to engage in appropriate ceremonies and activities to promote further awareness of the life-changing role that social workers play.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 47. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 316, to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 48. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 316, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 49. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 316, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 50. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 316, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 51. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 316, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 52. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 316, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 53. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 316, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 54. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 316, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 55. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 316, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 47. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 316, to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON RESPONSES TO UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The commander of the United States Northern Command has said that the United States faces domain awareness gaps.

(2) Department of Defense efforts to identify and track unidentified aerial phenomena to date have used expensive and scarce resources, including fighter aircraft.

(3) Other Federal agencies, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection, possess aircraft and radar capabilities that could identify and track unidentified aerial phenomena.

(4) Non-Federal aircraft and radar could augment future Department of Defense efforts to identify and track unidentified aerial phenomena.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) air domain awareness gaps may be closed through better use of existing capabilities within other Federal agencies and in non-Federal entities in partnership with the Department of Defense;

(2) the Department of Defense should report to Congress on the legal authorities required to enhance cooperation with other Federal agencies and non-Federal partners in the identification and tracking of unidentified aerial phenomena; and

(3) the Department of Defense should develop plans to partner with non-Federal entities to leverage currently available capabilities, including aircraft and radar capabilities, to close air domain awareness gaps and reduce the potential threat from unidentified aerial phenomena.

SA 48. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 316, to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”.

SA 49. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 316, to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”.

SA 50. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 316, to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike “4 days” and insert “5 days”.

SA 51. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 316, to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 7 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 52. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 316, to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike “7 days” and insert “8 days”.

SA 53. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill S. 316, to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike “2 days” and insert “3 days”.

SA 54. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 316, to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 2 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 55. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 316, to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE I—INDEPENDENT AND OBJECTIVE OVERSIGHT OF UKRAINIAN ASSISTANCE

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Independent and Objective Oversight of Ukrainian Assistance Act”.

SEC. 102. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are—

(1) to provide for the independent and objective conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to Ukraine for military, economic, and humanitarian aid;

(2) to provide for the independent and objective leadership and coordination of, and recommendations concerning, policies designed—

(A) to promote economic efficiency and effectiveness in the administration of the programs and operations described in paragraph (1); and

(B) to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse in such programs and operations; and

(3) to provide for an independent and objective means of keeping the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies fully and currently informed about—

(A) problems and deficiencies relating to the administration of the programs and operations described in paragraph (1); and

(B) the necessity for, and the progress toward implementing, corrective action related to such programs.

SEC. 103. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED OR OTHERWISE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE MILITARY, ECONOMIC, AND HUMANITARIAN AID TO UKRAINE.—The term “amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the military, economic, and humanitarian aid for Ukraine” means amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for any fiscal year—

(A) for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative;

(B) for Foreign Military Financing funding for Ukraine;

(C) to the Department of State under the heading “NONPROLIFERATION, ANTI-TERRORISM, DEMINING AND RELATED PROGRAMS”; and

(D) under titles III and VI of the Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act (division N of Public Law 117–103)

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(F) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

(G) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(H) the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives.

(3) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the Office of the Special Inspector General for Ukrainian Military, Economic, and Humanitarian Aid established under section 104(a).

(4) SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The term “Special Inspector General” means the Special Inspector General for Ukrainian Military, Economic, and Humanitarian Aid appointed pursuant to section 104(b).

SEC. 104. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR UKRAINIAN MILITARY, ECONOMIC, AND HUMANITARIAN AID.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby established the Office of the Special Inspector General for Ukrainian Military, Economic, and Humanitarian Aid to carry out the purposes set forth in section 102.

(b) APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The head of the Office shall be the Special Inspector General for Ukrainian Military, Economic, and Humanitarian Aid, who shall be appointed by the President. The first Special Inspector General shall be appointed not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) QUALIFICATIONS.—The appointment of the Special Inspector General shall be made solely on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability in accounting, auditing, financial analysis, law, management analysis, public administration, or investigations.

(d) COMPENSATION.—The annual rate of basic pay of the Special Inspector General shall be the annual rate of basic pay provided for positions at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

(e) PROHIBITION ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.—For purposes of section 7324 of title 5, United States Code, the Special Inspector General is not an employee who determines policies to be pursued by the United States in the nationwide administration of Federal law.

(f) REMOVAL.—The Special Inspector General shall be removable from office in accordance with section 103(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

SEC. 105. ASSISTANT INSPECTORS GENERAL.

The Special Inspector General, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations governing the civil service, shall appoint—

(1) an Assistant Inspector General for Auditing, who shall supervise the performance of auditing activities relating to programs and operations supported by amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for military, economic, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine; and

(2) an Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, who shall supervise the performance of investigative activities relating to the programs and operations described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 106. SUPERVISION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Special Inspector General shall report directly to, and be under the

general supervision of, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense.

(b) INDEPENDENCE TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS AND AUDITS.—No officer of the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, or any other relevant Federal agency may prevent or prohibit the Special Inspector General from—

(1) initiating, carrying out, or completing any audit or investigation related to amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the military, economic, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine; or

(2) issuing any subpoena during the course of any such audit or investigation.

SEC. 107. DUTIES.

(a) OVERSIGHT OF MILITARY, ECONOMIC, AND HUMANITARIAN AID TO UKRAINE PROVIDED AFTER FEBRUARY 24, 2022.—The Special Inspector General shall conduct, supervise, and coordinate audits and investigations of the treatment, handling, and expenditure of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for military, economic, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, and of the programs, operations, and contracts carried out utilizing such funds, including—

(1) the oversight and accounting of the obligation and expenditure of such funds;

(2) the monitoring and review of reconstruction activities funded by such funds;

(3) the monitoring and review of contracts funded by such funds;

(4) the monitoring and review of the transfer of such funds and associated information between and among departments, agencies, and entities of the United States and private and nongovernmental entities;

(5) the maintenance of records regarding the use of such funds to facilitate future audits and investigations of the use of such funds;

(6) the monitoring and review of the effectiveness of United States coordination with the Government of Ukraine, major recipients of Ukrainian refugees, partners in the region, and other donor countries;

(7) the investigation of overpayments (such as duplicate payments or duplicate billing) and any potential unethical or illegal actions of Federal employees, contractors, or affiliated entities; and

(8) the referral of reports compiled as a result of such investigations, as necessary, to the Department of Justice to ensure further investigations, prosecutions, recovery of funds, or other remedies.

(b) OTHER DUTIES RELATED TO OVERSIGHT.—The Special Inspector General shall establish, maintain, and oversee such systems, procedures, and controls as the Special Inspector General considers appropriate to discharge the duties described in subsection (a).

(c) CONSULTATION.—The Special Inspector General shall consult with the appropriate congressional committees before engaging in auditing activities outside of Ukraine.

(d) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978.—In addition to the duties specified in subsections (a) and (b), the Special Inspector General shall have the duties and responsibilities of inspectors general under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(e) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS.—In carrying out the duties, responsibilities, and authorities of the Special Inspector General under this Act, the Special Inspector General shall coordinate with, and receive cooperation from—

(1) the Inspector General of the Department of Defense;

(2) the Inspector General of the Department of State;

(3) the Inspector General of the United States Agency for International Development; and

(4) the Inspector General of any other relevant Federal agency.

SEC. 108. POWERS AND AUTHORITIES.

(a) AUTHORITIES UNDER CHAPTER 4 OF PART I OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), in carrying out the duties specified in section 107, the Special Inspector General shall have the authorities provided under section 5406 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) LIMITATION.—The Special Inspector General is not authorized to audit or investigate the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)).

(b) AUDIT STANDARDS.—The Special Inspector General shall carry out the duties specified in section 107(a) in accordance with the standards and guidelines set forth in section 404(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code.

(c) EXPEDITED HIRING AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Special Inspector General may exercise any authority provided to the head of a temporary organization under section 3161 of title 5, United States Code, without regard to whether the Office qualifies as a temporary organization under subsection (a) of that section.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—With respect to the exercise of authority under subsection (b) of section 3161 of title 5, United States Code, as authorized under paragraph (1)—

(A) the Special Inspector General may not make any appointment under that subsection on or after the later of—

(i) the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(ii) the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Special Inspector General is confirmed by the Senate;

(B) paragraph (2) of that subsection (relating to periods of appointments) shall not apply; and

(C) no period of an appointment made under that subsection may extend after the date on which the Office terminates pursuant to section 113.

(3) REEMPLOYMENT OF ANNUITANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), if an annuitant receiving an annuity from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund becomes employed in a position in the Office—

(i) the annuity of that annuitant shall continue; and

(ii) such reemployed annuitant shall not be considered to be an employee for the purposes of chapter 83 or 84 of title 5, United States Code.

(B) LIMITATIONS.—Subparagraph (A) shall apply to—

(i) not more than 25 employees of the Office at any particular time, as designated by the Special Inspector General; and

(ii) pay periods beginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 109. PERSONNEL, FACILITIES, AND OTHER RESOURCES.

(a) PERSONNEL.—The Special Inspector General may select, appoint, and employ such officers and employees as may be necessary for carrying out the duties of the Special Inspector General, subject to the provisions of—

(1) chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service; and

(2) chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

(b) EMPLOYMENT OF EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Special Inspector General may obtain the services of experts and consultants in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, at daily rates not to

exceed the equivalent rate prescribed for grade GS-15 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of such title.

(c) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—To the extent and in such amounts as may be provided in advance by appropriations Acts, the Special Inspector General may—

(1) enter into contracts and other arrangements for audits, studies, analyses, and other services with public agencies and with private persons; and

(2) make such payments as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the Special Inspector General.

(d) RESOURCES.—The Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense, as appropriate, shall provide the Special Inspector General with—

(1) appropriate and adequate office space at appropriate locations of the Department of State or the Department of Defense, as appropriate, in Ukraine or in European partner countries;

(2) such equipment, office supplies, and communications facilities and services as may be necessary for the operation of such offices; and

(3) necessary maintenance services for such offices and the equipment and facilities located in such offices.

(e) ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon request of the Special Inspector General for information or assistance from any department, agency, or other entity of the Federal Government, the head of such entity shall, to the extent practicable and not in contravention of any existing law, furnish such information or assistance to the Special Inspector General or an authorized designee.

(2) REPORTING OF REFUSED ASSISTANCE.—Whenever information or assistance requested by the Special Inspector General is, in the judgment of the Special Inspector General, unreasonably refused or not provided, the Special Inspector General shall immediately report the circumstances to—

(A) the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense, as appropriate; and

(B) the appropriate congressional committees.

SEC. 110. REPORTS.

(a) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 30 days after the end of each quarter of each fiscal year, the Special Inspector General shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Defense that—

(1) summarizes, for the applicable quarter, and to the extent possible, for the period from the end of such quarter to the date on which the report is submitted, the activities during such period of the Special Inspector General and the activities under programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for military, economic, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine; and

(2) includes, for applicable quarter, a detailed statement of all obligations, expenditures, and revenues associated with military, economic, and humanitarian activities in Ukraine, including—

(A) obligations and expenditures of appropriated funds;

(B) a project-by-project and program-by-program accounting of the costs incurred to date for military, economic, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, including an estimate of the costs to be incurred by the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, and other relevant Federal agencies to complete each project and each program;

(C) revenues attributable to, or consisting of, funds provided by foreign nations or

international organizations to programs and projects funded by any Federal department or agency and any obligations or expenditures of such revenues;

(D) revenues attributable to, or consisting of, foreign assets seized or frozen that contribute to programs and projects funded by any Federal department or agency and any obligations or expenditures of such revenues;

(E) operating expenses of entities receiving amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for military, economic, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine; and

(F) for any contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism described in subsection (b)—

(i) the dollar amount of the contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism;

(ii) a brief discussion of the scope of the contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism;

(iii) a discussion of how the Federal department or agency involved in the contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism identified, and solicited offers from, potential individuals or entities to perform the contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism, including a list of the potential individuals or entities that were issued solicitations for the offers; and

(iv) the justification and approval documents on which the determination to use procedures other than procedures that provide for full and open competition was based.

(b) COVERED CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AGREEMENTS, AND FUNDING MECHANISMS.—A contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism described in this subsection is any major contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism that is entered into by any Federal department or agency that involves the use of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the military, economic, or humanitarian aid to Ukraine with any public or private sector entity—

(1) to build or rebuild the physical infrastructure of Ukraine;

(2) to establish or reestablish a political or societal institution of Ukraine;

(3) to provide products or services to the people of Ukraine; or

(4) to provide security assistance to Ukraine.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Special Inspector General shall publish each report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) on a publicly available internet website in English, Ukrainian, and Russian.

(d) FORM.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex if the Special Inspector General determines that a classified annex is necessary.

(e) SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS TO CONGRESS.—During the 30-day period beginning on the date a report is received pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense may submit comments to the appropriate congressional committees, in unclassified form, regarding any matters covered by the report that the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate. Such comments may include a classified annex if the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense considers such annex to be necessary.

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize the public disclosure of information that is—

(1) specifically prohibited from disclosure by any other provision of law;

(2) specifically required by Executive order to be protected from disclosure in the interest of defense or national security or in the conduct of foreign affairs; or

(3) a part of an ongoing criminal investigation.

SEC. 111. TRANSPARENCY.

(a) **REPORT.**—Except as provided in subsection (c), not later than 60 days after receiving a report pursuant to section 110(a), the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly make copies of the report available to the public upon request and at a reasonable cost.

(b) **COMMENTS.**—Except as provided in subsection (c), not later than 60 days after submitting comments pursuant to section 110(e), the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly make copies of such comments available to the public upon request and at a reasonable cost.

(c) WAIVER.

(1) **AUTHORITY.**—The President may waive the requirement under subsection (a) or (b) with respect to availability to the public of any element in a report submitted pursuant to section 110(a) or any comments submitted pursuant to section 110(e) if the President determines that such waiver is justified for national security reasons.

(2) **NOTICE OF WAIVER.**—The President shall publish a notice of each waiver made under paragraph (1) in the Federal Register not later than the date of the submission to the appropriate congressional committees of a report required under section 110(a) or any comments submitted pursuant to section 110(e). Each such report and comments shall specify whether a waiver was made pursuant to paragraph (1) and which elements in the report or the comments were affected by such waiver.

SEC. 112. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2024 to carry out this Act.

(b) **RESCISSION.**—Of the amount appropriated under the heading “ASSISTANCE FOR EUROPE, EURASIA, AND CENTRAL ASIA” in title III of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2023 (division K of Public Law 117-328), \$20,000,000 is rescinded.

SEC. 113. TERMINATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Office shall terminate on the day that is 180 days after the date on which amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Ukraine that are unexpended are less than \$250,000,000.

(b) **FINAL REPORT.**—Before the termination date referred to in subsection (a), the Special Inspector General shall prepare and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a final forensic audit report on programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the military, economic, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 28; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of calendar No. 25, S. 316 postclosure; further, that at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote in relation to the Johnson amendment No. 11 and Ricketts amendment No. 30;

that the Senate recess following the Ricketts vote until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further, that at 2:30 p.m., the Senate vote in relation to the Cruz amendment No. 9 and Sullivan amendment No. 33, that at 5:15 p.m. the Senate vote in relation to the Scott of Florida amendment No. 13 and Hawley amendment No. 40; finally, that all previous provisions in relation to the amendment votes remain in effect, and with two minutes for debate, equally divided, prior to each vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators CASSIDY, RUBIO, SULLIVAN, and BROWN.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

NOMINATION OF JULIE A. SU

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, last Tuesday, President Biden formally nominated Julie Su to be the Secretary of the Department of Labor. Now, as ranking member of the committee that oversees her nomination, I felt it was important to express some concerns that have only grown since her previous nomination.

Deputy Secretary Su has a troubling record and is currently overseeing the Department of Labor's development of anti-worker regulations dismantling the gig economy.

This does not inspire confidence in her current position, let alone confidence that she should be promoted. Ms. Su's record now and in her previous position as secretary for the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency deserves scrutiny. I look forward to a full review and hearing process for her nomination.

In California, Ms. Su was a top architect of AB5, a controversial law that removed the flexibility of individuals to work as independent contractors.

Now, independent contractors, you can call them freelancers. They make their own hours, and they choose the type of work they wish to do. I was recently taking a Lyft. The driver told me he was able to clear \$500 a day. He has Uber, Lyft, and DoorDash on his phone. He flips between the apps, he chooses the job from whichever one is immediately available, and through it all, he clears 500 bucks a day. I said, wait a second, man, you gotta pay your gas, you gotta pay your insurance; are you still—Oh, yeah, I clear 500 a day.

Now, if he is working five days a week, he is doing \$10,000 a month. Independent contractors are shielded from forced or coerced unionization that could strip that flexibility away. This, of course, has made eliminating this classification a top priority for large labor unions who benefit from more

workers being forced to pay mandatory union dues.

Now, it is important to note, even in California, AB5 is extremely unpopular. And 59 percent of California voters supported a measure to exempt ride-share drivers from AB5.

The law is so flawed, the Governor and State legislature have had to pass multiple laws to exempt over 100 occupations. The statutory exemptions are longer than the text of AB5 itself.

But Ms. Su has taken her support for this anti-worker, pro-union policy to the U.S. Department of Labor. During her tenure as Deputy Secretary of Labor, essentially the Agency's chief operating officer, the Biden administration pushed to eliminate independent contracting via Federal Executive rulemaking.

Now, there was never any hope of getting AB 5—an AB 5-like law through Congress, so they pursued their goals through regulation.

And, if finalized, the new regulation strips 21 million Americans of their ability to classify themselves as independent contractors and enjoy the flexibility this provides.

This regulation would undermine the business model of services like Uber, Lyft, and DoorDash that provide valuable services and give drivers the ability and freedom to set their own hours and even hop between States.

I got off at the airport in New Orleans, Louis Armstrong International Airport, and the guy that picks me up has Maryland plates: Oh, yeah, I moved here like six months ago, wanted to come down for jazz fest, and so I just notified the different—you know, Uber and Lyft, and now I am down here working instead of back where I started.

We are talking maximum flexibility. By the way, it is not just the Uber and Lyft drivers affected; truckers are severely impacted.

Many truckers are independent owner-operators. They own their own trucks. This regulation could devastate the freedom of these truckers. It could potentially impact the supply chain in the process, as trucking moves more than 72 percent of the goods in the United States annually.

Now, as a conservative from a conservative State—but I think as an American from any State—I can say that we don't need the application of a law from one of the most liberal States to the entire Nation.

A law rejected in California is not a policy to be pursued on a Federal level. We need to support the right of workers and their ability to choose what is best for them, not put them in a strait-jacket to serve other people's goals.

I also want to hear Ms. Su's position on DOL's effort to uproot the franchise model, which employs over 8 million Americans. Deputy Secretary Su has made public comments indicating that she will pursue attempts at DOL to forcibly impose a joint employer classification on the almost 800,000 franchises operating in our communities,

the same as any other small business. Sadly, franchisors with liability for thousands of franchise owners that actually operate the small business would be a sure way to destroy the system of franchising, a model which has allowed those underrepresented in the business community—women, people of color—to have the ability to live the American dream, becoming successful small business owners as they help create jobs, lifting other workers out of poverty.

No one is surprised that the joint employer rule is a major priority for large labor unions. It is easier for them to pressure one company to unionize to increase their union dues than to pressure thousands of independent businesses.

The priority of the Biden administration should not be to do whatever makes it easier to forcibly and coercively unionize workers while undermining the business models of the establishments they work for. It should be to increase individual freedom and opportunity.

What comes to mind, there is a fellow north of Baton Rouge who moved here from West Africa to attend LSU. After he attended LSU, he became a citizen, and now he is a franchisor for multiple outlets. And he talks about the American dream: coming here from Nigeria as a transfer student; getting his citizenship; and now being an owner, involved in rotary, running for political office—a better American than most Americans. Somehow, this threatens the Department of Labor.

Now, in addition to our policies, we should ask questions about how Ms. Su presided over a mismanaged California unemployment insurance program during the pandemic and why California paid \$31 billion in fraudulent claims when she chose to suspend the eligibility determination process.

Some of these payments went to inmates and known domestic and international criminals. To put into context, the Department of Labor's requested budget is \$15 billion and employs more than 17,000 people. This means that Ms. Su lost more than double the annual budget of the Agency she will be responsible for managing in Washington, DC. This calls into question her qualifications as a manager.

Unfortunately, there will be many reasons to be concerned about Ms. Su's nomination to head the Department of Labor, and I look forward to a full hearing process to further discuss.

STUDENT LOANS

Mr. President, today we introduced the Congressional Review Act, Resolution of Disapproval, to overturn the Biden administration's unfair student loan schemes that transfer the burden of \$400 billion in Federal student loans from those who willingly took on that debt—and took on that debt to get a degree that would help them make more money—to American taxpayers who, perhaps, never went to college or already fulfilled their commitment to

pay off their loans, oftentimes sacrificing to do so.

The resolution would also end the pause on student loan payments, which, by August, will have cost taxpayers almost \$200 billion. President Biden has extended this pause six times, for a total of 31 months, far beyond the original justification of an ongoing pandemic. I am joined by 38 of my colleagues in offering this resolution.

Last August, President Biden announced his plan to cancel up to \$20,000 in Federal student loans from most borrowers and to extend the payment and interest accrual pause in student loans via executive fiat.

Make no mistake, this reckless student loan scheme does not forgive debt. It does not forgive debt at all. It just transfers the burden from those who willingly took out these loans for college—and, again, in order to make more money when they graduate—to Americans who never attended college and who have already paid off their loans.

And I would ask: Where is the forgiveness for the guy who didn't go to college but bought a truck, went to work, and is now working to pay off that loan? Is his truck loan going to be forgiven? It will not be.

And what about the woman who paid off her student loans but is now struggling to afford her mortgage? Does she get a refund to help her with the mortgage?

Is the administration providing them relief? And the answer is no. Instead, the administration had to not only pay their bills, but the bills for those who decided to go to college in order to make more money and then have their student loans forgiven. This is irresponsible and unfair.

And, by the way, the plan does nothing to address the problems that created the debt in the first place. It doesn't hold colleges or universities accountable for rising costs. According to the College Board, in the last 30 years, tuition and fees have jumped at private nonprofit colleges by 80 percent and at public 4-year institutions by 124 percent.

And it doesn't ensure that students are prepared for life after college. Indeed, it creates a terrible moral hazard that tells students that Federal student loans aren't real commitments and tells colleges that no matter how high they raise their prices or what product they produce, the Federal Government will cover the tab, courtesy of the American taxpayer.

Our resolution prevents average Americans, the 87 percent of whom currently have no student loans, from being stuck with a policy that the administration is doing, not to be fair to all but, rather, to favor the few.

Our resolution also protects the rule of law, which President Biden must know he is violating.

During Supreme Court arguments on the legality of the student loan forgive-

ness in February, Justice Roberts clearly indicated that if \$400 billion was to be spent on student loan cancellation, it would and should require congressional approval. That has not been given.

It is a clear example of this administration attempting to subvert Congress for what appears to be purely political purposes. It is a wildly dangerous precedent if left unchecked.

For Americans who cannot afford their debt or want a proactive approach to paying off their loan commitments, Congress has already authorized—again, let me just say this. For someone who can't afford their debt or wishes to be proactive to pay off their loan commitments, Congress has already authorized 31 different programs to help pay or forgive student loans.

I ask unanimous consent that the list of Federal programs already available to Americans who are struggling to repay their loans, work in public service, or who are in high-demand fields be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S RECKLESS STUDENT LOAN SCHEME

There are already 31 active student loan repayment and forgiveness programs.

THREE FULL OR PARTIAL STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS

Direct Loan PSLF—

Government organizations at any level (U.S. federal, state, local, or tribal)—this includes the U.S. military

Not-for-profit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

Other nonprofit organizations that provide specified types of service (e.g., public health, public safety)

Stafford Loan Forgiveness for Teachers—

Teachers who:
teacher in a school or education service agency serving students from low-income families;

special education teacher, including teachers of infants, toddlers, children, or youth with disabilities; or

teacher in the fields of mathematics, science, foreign languages, or bilingual education, or in any other field of expertise determined by a state education agency to have a shortage of qualified teachers in that state.

Federal Perkins Loan Cancellation—

Early childhood education provider
Employee at a child or family services agency

Faculty member at a tribal college or university

Firefighter
Law enforcement officer

Librarian with master's degree at Title I school

Military service
Nurse or medical technician

Professional provider of early intervention (disability) services

Public defender
Speech pathologist with master's degree at Title I school

Volunteer service (AmeriCorps VISTA or Peace Corps)

Teacher in a low-income school
Teachers of math, science, foreign language, bilingual education, or other shortage subject areas

Special education teachers

23 active loan repayment programs for:

12 active repayment programs for federal employees in the following areas:

Senate employees

House Employees

Congressional Budget Office

Government Employee

Defense Acquisition Workforce—hard to staff civilian acquisition positions

Armed Forces: Enlisted members on Active Duty in Military Specialties

Members of the Selected Reserves

Health Professionals Officers Serving in the Selected Reserve with Wartime Critical Medical Skill Shortages

Chaplains Serving in the Selected Reserves

Education Debt Reduction Program—VA program for hard to staff areas

National Institutes of Health Intramural—Biomedical or biobehavioral research careers

National and Community Service grant program—AmeriCorps

11 Federal Student Loan Repayment Programs for broad employment needs or shortages

Veterinary Medicine—USDA

Indian Health Service—

National Health Service Corps—Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

National Health Service corps students to service—HRSA

National health service corps state—HRSA

Loan repayments for health professional school faculty—HRSA

General, pediatric, and public health dentistry faculty loan repayment—HRSA

Nursing education LRP—HRSA

Nurse Faculty—HRSA

National Institutes of Health Extramural—NIH

John R. Justice loan repayment for prosecutors and public defenders—DOJ

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, they range from total forgiveness under public student loan forgiveness, the PSLF; Stafford loans for teachers; and Perkins loans cancellations for law enforcement officers, military, early childhood educators, and social workers, to name few.

There are also repayment programs for high-demand fields, where education is specialized and the need is a public good. For example, through the Department of Health and Human Services, therapists and behavioral health providers who are needed to help our children as we face a mental health crisis are eligible for loan forgiveness.

In addition, there are repayment policies related to the income of an individual. There are five different programs to keep payments low compared to an individual's income and to cap the total time for repayment.

These are quite different from this mass transfer of debt under this reckless student loan scheme, which forgets that these existing programs were set up to target limited taxpayer resources to benefit those using their degrees to serve and to fill broader public needs or who can demonstrate that they, themselves, have a personal, individual need.

By the way, what benefit does the GI bill hold when students can just wait to have their student loans forgiven? Why contribute to your community by teaching in a public school while getting your Federal loans paid off

through your service when you can just wait for President Biden to forgive your loans? Irresponsible policies like President Biden's student loan scheme weaken these incentives and discourage Americans from going into public service.

President Biden and Secretary Cardona, come to the table. There are real problems in the student loan system and Federal financing of higher education. Let's fix them legally through a lasting, bipartisan solution.

I close by encouraging all my colleagues to join me in supporting this Congressional Review Act resolution to prevent this unconstitutional student loan forgiveness scheme. It is unfair to the hundreds of millions of Americans who will bear the burden of paying off hundreds of billions of dollars of someone else's student debt.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

TKTOK

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, back in 2019, I believe April of 2019, if not the first, I must have been one of the first people to call for the company TikTok to be banned in the United States. So it has been a while now; it is not something I just came up with the other day.

But I do think that is a pretty extraordinary thing, to ban a company, and so before I think we—for someone like me, who has argued for a national ban on a company like this, to take away something from over 100-and-something million Americans, many of whom I have heard from, many of whom I know personally—before we do something like that, I think people deserve an explanation as to why is it that we would want to do that. I don't think the answer can just be "Trust us. It is bad for America." I think they do deserve an answer, and I think they do deserve a clear argument as to why it is in our national interest to do this and why it is the only option we have.

First, I think it is important to understand how TikTok works. It is an ingenious app—no one argues about it—these short-form videos, and it always seems to show you what you want to see. The more you use it, the more it shows you the things you want to see.

How does it do that? Well, it does it two ways. First of all, it scoops up an extraordinary amount of data—not just data on what you are watching, all kinds of data. CNBC actually talked about it. TikTok, you know, collects your content that you viewed, content you created, shared. Beyond that, it includes your contact list. It collects your name, your age, your user name, your emails, your messages, your photos, your videos, and other personal information. In fact, in 2021, TikTok changed its privacy policies. It can now even collect biometric data, like your faceprint—you know that thing you use when the phone unlocks?—and the voiceprint of its users. It is an extraordinary amount of data.

But that is not the only thing it does—because I hear some people criticizing us and all they talk about is, well, everybody collects data. It is not just the data. What really makes TikTok so effective is that it has an algorithm that uses artificial intelligence to combine all of this data and your usage, and what that does is it basically—that algorithm, it knows you better than you know yourself. It knows the videos you are going to like before you even know you are going to like them, and it is an extraordinary power behind this. It is what they call a recommender engine. We are going to call it an algorithm. It is a predictor.

Now, people would say: Well, what is the big deal? All social media app companies do that, not just them. I mean, Netflix does it to recommend movies you might want to watch, and Spotify does it to recommend music. Clearly, Instagram and Facebook and Snap and Twitter—all of them have an algorithm, and all of them collect data. So what is the big deal? What they are doing is no different than anything else.

Here is the difference. The difference is, of all these companies I just mentioned to you, the only one that has a parent company that is a Chinese company that owns it is ByteDance. And it is not just that there is a Chinese company; they own and they operate the heart and soul of TikTok, the recommender engine, the algorithm. That belongs to ByteDance. In order for this to work, in order for TikTok to work, ByteDance has to have access to the data of Americans. They have to.

Now, here is where people will say to you: Well, so what if it is a Chinese company? It doesn't all have to be American companies.

Actually, the CEO of TikTok was here last week, and he said: You know, ByteDance—I am trying to paraphrase it, but I wrote it—is not owned or controlled by the Chinese Government. They are a private company that is owned by outside investors that include Americans.

Well, this is disingenuous. It is not true. And let me tell you why it is not true.

First of all, there is no such thing as a private company in China—not in the way we think of a private company. Let me explain why.

In China, No. 1, they have a law called the national intelligence law, and the national intelligence law of China requires—doesn't ask for; doesn't say: We can go to court and require you to do this. No, no. It automatically requires—the national intelligence law of China requires every single Chinese company—that includes ByteDance—to do whatever the Government of China tells them to do.

China has another law. It is called the data security law. What that law says is that every tech company in China—like ByteDance, a tech company in China—they have to hand over to the government whatever user information—whatever information they

want. They have to do it by law. That is a big difference between them and these other companies.

So the bottom line is this when it comes to those who argue that it is not a company controlled by the Chinese Government—I read the other day that China says they are going to block any forced sale of TikTok. Well, how could China block the forced sale of TikTok if they don't control TikTok? The reason they can block it is because they control—the government, through these laws—they control the company that controls the algorithm that drives TikTok. It is controlled by ByteDance. Under Chinese law, if the Government of China tells ByteDance, the owner of TikTok, to use the algorithm a certain way, they have to do it.

It doesn't matter who the shareholders—it doesn't matter if 100 percent of the shareholders of ByteDance are Americans. If they are located in China and the Chinese Government tells them: We want you to use the algorithm and the data you have access to in a certain way, they have no choice but to do it. That is not just true for ByteDance; that is true for every company in China.

So a lot of people say: OK. Well, then, the solution is this: Let's just store all the American data here in America. Let's just put it all in a server located in the United States, and that will do the trick.

No, it won't, and here is why. Even if you stored all of the data that TikTok has on Americans—over a hundred-something million users—even if you stored all of it, ByteDance in China still has to be given access to that data. You may have it stored in America, but you have to give access to ByteDance. Do you know why? Because the algorithm that TikTok depends on doesn't work without the data. ByteDance has to have access. That is almost like putting your life savings in a safe but then giving the thief the combination. Who cares that it is in the safe? Who cares where the safe is? If the thief has the combination, they can get into the safe.

So it doesn't matter where you store the data; if ByteDance owns the algorithm, they have to have access to the data, and if they have access to the data, the Chinese Government has access to the data whenever they want.

The latest iteration is, well, what we should do is we should force TikTok to be sold. Sold to whom? TikTok is worthless—worthless—without the algorithm. So even if TikTok, as we know the company, is bought by Americans, they still need the algorithm that ByteDance owns, and you can't buy the algorithm from ByteDance even if they wanted to sell it to you. Do you know why? Do you know why ByteDance can never sell you the algorithm, the recommender engine that powers TikTok? Because the Chinese Government in 2020 imposed a law that prohibits it. The Chinese Government specifically imposed a law in 2020 that

says you cannot transfer the algorithm outside of China. So selling it is not going to make a difference because no matter who buys it, TikTok is worthless. It won't work without the algorithm. The algorithm belongs to ByteDance, ByteDance is in China, and they have to do whatever the Chinese Government tells them to do.

This is where people have said to me: Well, who cares? Who cares if the Chinese Government controls the algorithm and has access to the data?

They want me to explain how an app that features funny videos and the latest dance fad—how that is possibly a national security threat. So let me walk you through a very realistic hypothetical.

Let's suppose for a moment that China decides they are going to invade Taiwan in 2027 or 2028, and the key to a successful invasion or taking of Taiwan is to prevent the United States of America from getting involved, and the key to keeping the United States from getting involved is to convince the American people that we shouldn't get involved because they know we are a democracy. They know that public opinion matters in America.

Knowing all this, the Chinese Government goes to ByteDance, who, by law, has to do whatever they are told, and the Chinese Government says to ByteDance: We want you to align your algorithm to shape American public opinion on Taiwan.

They won't do this overnight; they will spend a couple years laying this out.

We want you to align your algorithm to make sure that people in America are seeing messages that convince them that America should not get involved, and not only that, we want you to use the data to target specific American audiences with specific messages.

For example, some Americans might see a bunch of videos that allege to show people in Taiwan—probably fake but nonetheless people in Taiwan supporting a Chinese takeover. Maybe family members—remember, they have all this data on us. Family members of military members would see videos about how thousands of Americans will die if the United States gets involved. Others might see videos of Americans—or who they think are Americans—arguing: Why do we care about Taiwan? We should be focused on our problems here at home.

When we notice that they are doing something about it—that is what people will say: Well, when that happens, then you deal with it.

Well, once you notice that they are actually doing it and we try to do something about it, do you know what comes next? Here is what comes next—what is already happening now. You are going to have a bunch of small businesses in America that depend on marketing on TikTok. And let me tell you something. I don't diminish that. It is true. I know people who have built up their businesses, and they use

TikTok for marketing, and it works. It is better than the other apps for that.

But just imagine when we go to them and say: Guys, we have to shut TikTok down now because now it is real. Now they are using it against us.

Those people are going to come up and say: You are going to destroy my business.

In fact, China will probably threaten those people. China will probably make it very clear: The U.S. gets involved, we are going to knock all the Americans off of TikTok. Down goes your business.

Those people will suddenly be asking their elected official here not to get involved in Taiwan. Do you know where we find ourselves then? Paralyzed. A country that is paralyzed, that cannot act in its own national security interests because we have allowed an adversary to basically use an app that they control and the data that they control to shape public opinion in America over an extended period of time, and we can't do anything about it.

Now, here is where some people will say: Well, that is a violation of the First Amendment—free country.

I agree. You have a right to speak. I don't agree that it is a violation of the First Amendment; I agree that you have a right to speak and say anything you want in America.

This is not about the content of the video. What this is about is the existence of a company that is related to an important government interest.

What is that government interest? It is not just a substantial government interest; it is the most important government interest that we have—the national security of our country. And preventing our country from being paralyzed from acting in its national security interest is the most compelling and important government interest one can imagine.

Now, people say: Well, this is all hypothetical. There is no evidence the Chinese Government is doing any of this.

Well, let me first start by saying that every threat to our national security begins as theoretical before it becomes reality.

For example, China is building hypersonic missiles designed to sink our ships. They are not firing them at our ships today. They are not sinking our ships. They are not even threatening to sink our ships openly. Yet, somehow, everybody around here agrees that we have got to do something about the hypersonics.

But they are not doing it now. It is theoretical, right?

Russia has never launched nuclear missiles against the United States, but we spend a lot of money every year on NORAD, on monitoring our skies, on making sure that we aren't being attacked. It is a theoretical threat, but one we have taken seriously for 70 years.

Second, what is so theoretical about using propaganda during a time of war?

There is nothing theoretical about propaganda during war and conflict. In fact, propaganda has been a weapon that has been used in virtually every conflict for centuries to demoralize and to divide your adversary.

Third, this is not just theoretical. We have actually seen TikTok be used to drive messages and to undermine opponents. It was used to spread pro-Russian messages during the invasion of Ukraine. It has been used to suppress videos talking about Tiananmen Square and the genocide of Uighur Muslims in China. It is already being used to censor all kinds of—in fact, it was used. It was used to control content and limit content about our elections in this country in 2022.

It goes more. I can go further than that. ByteDance has already been used. ByteDance China has already been used to collect data on specific reporters whose stories ByteDance didn't like. So they used it to track the locations of these reporters.

Where are they? Who are they talking to? In fact, here in America—here in America—TikTok was caught spying on American journalists who were writing stories that TikTok didn't like, and TikTok denied it: It is not true; it is a lie.

And then they had to admit it. So now, it is: Oh, we fired the people who did this.

And now they are under Justice Department investigation.

But here is the point I would say about this whole theoretical thing. If God forbid—and I say “God forbid,” I really do, because no one wishes for armed conflict with anyone. There is nothing good about war. If, God forbid, we are ever in a war with China, China will use cyber attacks to try to take down our electric grid. China will use space weapons to try to destroy the satellites we have in space. China will use these missiles to sink our ships and kill Americans.

China will do all these things, but somehow we think they are incapable of using a social media app with 150 to 200 million users. They would never use that against us. They will sink our ships, shoot down our satellites, shut down our grid, but they would never use an app that they control. Come on. Of course, they would.

Look, there is a lot more to say on this topic, and this is one we should debate and talk about. This is a big deal. Don't take this lightly.

But I will say this. You know, since 1991, America has been the sole superpower in the world. I would venture to guess that almost everyone who serves here did not serve in government at a time when America had a near-peer adversary, for the most part. So I think we, generally, as a nation—certainly, the government—have forgotten what it is like to live in a world in which there is another country and another government that has almost as much power as we do. But, after 30 years, that is where we are. That is where we

stand right now. Whether we like it or not, we are in a near-peer competition and, in many ways, a conflict with China for global influence, for the direction of the world, with two very different views of the planet—with the Government of China, by the way, because I always hear people talk about this: We have no problem. The Chinese people are the No. 1 victims of the Chinese Communist Party on the planet. The No. 1 victims of the Chinese Communist Party are the Chinese people.

But their government—it is very simple, guys. They want to be the world's most powerful country, and they want to do it at our expense. And the consequences of that is that the world's most powerful country will be a nation that puts Uighur Muslims in death camps; that is trying to destroy Tibetan culture; that had no problem massacring their own people in Tiananmen Square; that as we speak, right now, are arming the Russians to commit these atrocities in Ukraine; that don't believe any of the things we are debating about free speech and the like.

We are in a competition, and we are in a conflict—hopefully, never an armed one, but, nonetheless, a conflict. And we have, operating in our country, an app—the fastest growing app—a social media app that has the most detailed personal data on over 100 million American users and growing, and they are turning over the power for, one day, for them to use it to divide us, to paralyze us, to confuse us, to turn us against each other.

Think of the damage that Russia did by putting bots, fake accounts, on Twitter and buying ads on Facebook. Can you imagine if Russia actually owned Facebook or Twitter—not put ads, not put bots, but actually controlled those companies—the damage they would have done to this country?

Now, imagine that with a country with an economy 50 times the size and with 100 times more capabilities, because that is what we are facing here.

It is not a game, and we should take it seriously. If there is a way to deal with this that doesn't involve a ban or something drastic, I have always been open to that. But it doesn't exist because of the way this company is structured. And we had better take it seriously or one day, 20, 30 years from now, people will look back and say: You guys should have taken it seriously—and we failed to do so, and we paid the price for it.

We should act on it as soon as possible. We should ban TikTok because it is bad for America. It harms our country, and it is a danger to our future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I thank Senator RUBIO for his comments.

Whenever I hear my colleagues rail against China—and I agree with that 95 percent of the time. Whenever I hear them say things like that they want to

be the world's most powerful country, the most powerful government, I agree with that.

But, as Senator RUBIO said—this isn't a debate between him and me. I just want to make a couple of comments. I want to talk about worker safety, in a moment, which I know the Presiding Officer cares so much about.

I go back half a generation. Senator RUBIO wasn't here then, but many of his ideological soulmates were here then. This Congress couldn't stop itself, from Presidents Clinton and Bush 1 and Obama and Bush 2 and Trump—couldn't help themselves—from giving all kinds of breaks to American corporations and incentives to American corporations to go to China, to move to China.

So they shut down production in Duluth, MN. They shut down production in Mansfield, OH, my hometown, and Toledo and Youngstown.

As corporations were lobbying Congress, I worked and I teamed up with LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Republican, against that. We were unsuccessful, as corporations lobbied Congress to give China something called permanent normal trade relations.

So they shut down production in Ohio. They moved that production to China. And what happened? They taught China a whole lot about manufacturing, and they created a whole lot of wealth in China.

Now we are surprised about TikTok. We are surprised that the Chinese military is as powerful as it is. I just think it is important that we remember, when we listen to corporate interests in this body who lobby here to weaken, to push jobs overseas, that these are the kinds of things that happen. And I hope we learn from that, and I hope we take a lesson and apply it to TikTok into the future.

So, Senator RUBIO, thank you for raising the issue.

WORKER SAFETY

Madam President, I want to talk about worker safety for a moment. On Friday, seven American workers went to work in West Reading, PA, at the RM Chocolate Factory to provide for their families.

I spoke to Senator CASEY about this, who is the senior Senator from Pennsylvania and who is one of the leaders in fighting for worker safety in this body. I spoke with him about it a few minutes ago.

Those seven workers never came home after an explosion leveled the plant. Our thoughts are with the families who lost sons and daughters, workers who were paid decent wages, not exorbitant wages—decent wages—and never returned home to their families.

We will learn more about what went wrong. I know Pennsylvania workers will always have an ally with Senators CASEY and FETTERMAN on this issue and so much more.

This struck me in a more emphatic way because I believe it was 1 day before the 112th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire. That

tragedy woke up the Nation to the dangers that workers face in their jobs—dozens of workers, because the management had locked the factory doors because they were afraid that some of these low-paid, mostly women, some of them very young, workers might steal a blouse or two. They locked the factory doors. So when this fire broke out in a very flammable environment, workers jumped out the windows to their deaths—dozens and dozens of workers.

That made a huge difference in Congress finally dealing with worker safety.

In fact, a woman who was nearby, heard the sirens, and came to the scene was named Frances Perkins. She became the first female Secretary of Labor, under President Roosevelt. She stayed with him his entire 12-plus years in office and played a big role, with Senator Wagner, in writing the most pro-worker legislation in this Nation's history, especially on worker safety.

Now, Madam President, I wear this pin on my lapel. I have worn it since it was given to me 25 years ago, at a workers' Memorial Day rally, by the steelworkers. It is a picture of a canary in a bird cage.

The mine workers, 120 years ago, used to take a canary down in the mine. If the canary died from toxic gas or lack of oxygen, the mine worker got out of the mine. He had no union, in those days, strong enough to protect him. He had no government, in those days, that cared enough to protect him.

We changed that because of worker safety laws. We changed that because of unions. This tragedy in West Reading, PA, reminds us that our work to protect workers and make workplaces safer never ends.

I think about those steelworkers who lost their lives near Toledo in an explosion in a refinery in Oregon, OH, last year. Max Morrissey and Ben Morrissey were brothers who died in that accident.

I think about the Norfolk Southern worker who worked for Norfolk Southern, and, because of its culture of laying off workers and compromising safety and paying big compensation bonuses to executives, the worker at Norfolk Southern lost his life earlier this month.

No worker should have to worry about returning—kissing her husband goodbye, kissing his wife goodbye, kissing his or her children goodbye, they should not have to worry about returning home. That is why we should stand up to corporate lobbies that always want to cut costs—worker safety be damned.

We know what happened. We saw in East Palestine what happened because the railroad laid off a third of its workers and then they compromised on safety. We saw what happened in Silicon Valley Bank when they didn't pay attention to consumers and regulators and the public interest.

And, again, workers always pay the price. We know what will happen. Every time there is an industrial accident, people are upset; they worry about it.

But the companies continue to lobby regulators for weaker laws. We see it here with corporate lobbyists. We see it in the regulatory Agencies, when they always want to weaken consumer laws, they always want to weaken environmental laws, they always want to weaken worker safety laws, and communities always pay, and workers always pay.

That is why a union card is so powerful. It means higher wages, better benefits, and a safer workplace. If you love this country, you fight for the people who make it work, whether they punch a clock or swipe a badge or whether they work for tips or whether they work on salary. You fight to keep people safe on the job. That is our job here, to make sure we do that better than we have in the past.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

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Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, we are debating, last week and this week, the authorization for the use of military force authority that was granted in 2002, which is a really important debate that we are seeing right here on the Senate floor.

By the way, it is a good-faith argument. There are Members on both sides of the aisle making different arguments.

There is not a topic, in my view, more important than the issues at stake here—how to use military force; when to use military force; is it authorized by the President to use military force?—because, as to the issue of the U.S. Government sending young men and women into harm's way to defend our country's interests, there is nothing more important, in my view—nothing more important.

I appreciate the time and the debate here on the floor. It is also important because it wraps into—when you talk about young men and women going into harm's way overseas, one of the biggest harms to American service men and women over the past 20 years has actually been from Shia militia groups supported by Iranian terrorist organizations. Now, it doesn't always seem to make sense in that Americans who were killed in Iraq and wounded in Iraq were often—and I will give some of the numbers here—killed and wounded because those who did the killing and wounding were supplied by Iranian terrorist groups. In particular, the Quds Force, which was led by Qasem Soleimani, during the course of the Iraq war, killed over 600 American servicemembers and wounded over 2,000 with very sophisticated IEDs that were supplied by the Iranians to their proxies in Iraq.

So what does any of this have to do with the 2002 AUMF for Iraq that we

were debating last week and will debate this week? Well, the answer is everything, everything.

We eventually figured out—we, the United States—that these very sophisticated IEDs, which are called explosively formed projectiles or penetrators, EFPs, were actually, as I mentioned, caused by the Iranians. It took some time to figure this out because, like so many things, the Iranian terrorists in Tehran and the ayatollahs lie—they lie—and they denied it. "Oh, we didn't have anything to do with that." Well, they actually had everything to do with that. Again, the best and brightest in America, in my view, for many years, during the Iraq war, were being killed by Iranian terrorists and being led by Qasem Soleimani, who was the head of the Quds Force, that was doing this.

During that time of 2005 to the middle of 2006, I was serving as a Marine Corps staff officer to the commanding general to the U.S. Central Command, General Abizaid. I was deployed to many parts of the CENTCOM AOR with the CENTCOM Commander. Probably the biggest concern, no doubt, was of these incredibly effective, brutally efficient EFPs that were killing and wounding so many of our best and brightest. To this day, it is just remarkable to me that so few people even know about this or talk about it—the killing and maiming of thousands of American troops by the Iranians and the Quds Force, led by General Soleimani.

Again, what does this have to do with the 2002 AUMF? Everything.

What happened during that time?

Well, when we figured out it was the Iranians doing this, we—we, again, the national leadership—never really retaliated against Iran at all. Imagine that. We knew that they were killing and wounding thousands of our best and brightest, and the United States did not do anything to establish deterrence. As a matter of fact, during that time, we lost deterrence, and it became clear that Iran, with good reason, started to think: Hey, we can kill American servicemembers with impunity. There is no price.

So they did.

When you lose deterrence with a terrorist regime that likes to kill Americans and has a history of killing Americans, it is not a good thing, especially for the young men and women who are serving our country in dangerous places.

I remember, early on in my Senate tenure here, in a briefing we had in the SCIF, I asked the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs: Do you think we have lost deterrence? There have been 600 Americans killed and over 2,000 wounded. Do you think the Iranians believe they can kill as many American servicemembers as they can—again, America's best and brightest—and not pay a price?

The Chairman said: Yes. The Chairman said: Yes.

I remember that very distinctly.

So the whole point is, How do you reestablish deterrence? Because, if you reestablish deterrence, you are going to save lives, and you are going to protect your servicemembers.

Again, there is nothing more important that we do as a country than making sure the men and women who go defend our country—who defend us, who defend our interests—are protected, are lethal, are the best trained. But it is difficult because, when you lose deterrence, it is hard to get it back. Well, we did get it back, and I certainly applaud President Trump and the Trump administration.

When Qasem Soleimani was back in Iraq, scoping American forces to kill—by the way, a lot of them during that time were from Alaska—in early January 2020, the Trump administration said: The joke is over. This guy with the blood on his hands of thousands of our best and brightest—he is not doing it again.

And he was killed during a daring strike on January 3, 2020. He was looking to kill more American troops in Iraq, and he got killed. I think it was justified and an important signal to send to everybody around the world that you can't go around killing American troops and not expect to have retaliation against you or your country. That should be basic. That should be basic. Every U.S. Senator here, today, should agree with that 110 percent.

The Trump administration said: We are not going to allow this anymore, and the guy who is responsible for killing so many Americans and wounding so many Americans—he is going to pay.

And he did, with his life.

The legal authorization for that very justified killing was the 2002 AUMF that we are debating right now. OK. That was only 3 years ago that that happened. So it is very relevant to the issue of deterrence and very relevant to the issue of Iran.

For some of my colleagues to say: Well, it is old. It has nothing to do with anything that is happening right now, they couldn't be more inaccurate. This matters, and it matters today. For those who say it doesn't, they don't know this history or they don't want to know this history or they haven't been watching the news for the last 96 hours.

Some of us are concerned about the very debate we are having here, which is to say: Let's remove the authorization that we used to kill Soleimani. Let's get rid of it. Hmm, what kind of signal does that send? Could this signal maybe we are not worried about deterring Iran anymore? Could this signal that removing this authorization, this 2002 authorization that, again, was used to regain deterrence with Iran—if we got rid of it, would this embolden Iran?

Well, as I mentioned, in the last 96 hours, we have had Iranian proxies unleashing deadly attacks on American servicemembers and American contrac-

tors. That is happening right now. Is it a coincidence? I don't know. One American is dead, and five have been wounded with these brazen attacks. Some of us thought this actually might happen. It is happening. It is happening.

Unfortunately, there was a little bit of something going on last week that we are going to get to the bottom of. Trust me. On the Armed Services Committee, we are going to get to the bottom of it because, last Thursday, when we were debating the AUMF, these vicious attacks started at 6:30 a.m., DC time. It was on the day we were debating the AUMF—all day Thursday. We didn't hear about it until the close of business Thursday. Was somebody hiding that information from us? It was pretty relevant information. We are going to find out about that.

I am going to be offering an amendment to the AUMF tomorrow, and I believe every U.S. Senator should vote for it. Here is why: I believe that the 2002 AUMF clearly helped with deterrence. It was the authority, in addition to article II, to take out one of the biggest terrorists, heck, in the 21st century. That is for sure. He killed more Americans than any other terrorist. That is for sure.

So the question is, Will removing this AUMF lessen American deterrence against Iran's malign activities?

That is what my amendment asks the Director of National Intelligence to do—to look at that question and certify the answer. If the answer is no, then this new AUMF or the removal of this AUMF can go forward.

Again, it is a really simple question: Ask the DNI, for the next 30 days, to look at this question: Will removing the 2002 AUMF lessen American deterrence against Iran's malign activities?

Why wouldn't every U.S. Senator want to go: "That is a really good question. Heck, we are seeing it in the Middle East right now—in Syria. Maybe this is going to embolden Iran. Heck, maybe we shouldn't do it. Maybe, by doing this, we are going to put American servicemembers' lives at risk. Hmm. Maybe we shouldn't do it. Let's ask the DNI?"

That is it. Why wouldn't you want that?

I was just talking to a couple of the proponents of this AUMF debate. Again, I have a lot of respect for them, but I asked them: Why wouldn't you want this? Wouldn't you want to know? Just wait 30 more days. I know you have been trying to get this removed for years. Wait 30 days. Send it to the President's own Director of National Intelligence and ask her: Review the intelligence. Review what you are hearing with the chatter among the Iranian proxies who are trying to kill Americans and who have killed Americans. Is any of this related to the removal of the AUMF? Then give us an answer in 30 days, and if the answer is no, this can move forward. If it is yes and this will hurt our deterrence against Iran, then we shouldn't be doing this.

That is all my amendment is asking. It simply says: As for the authorization for use of military force—the AUMF—of 2002, if it is voted on to be repealed, which it looks like it will be, it will go into effect after the Director of National Intelligence certifies in an intelligence assessment to Congress that the repeal will not degrade the effectiveness of U.S.-led deterrence against Iranian aggression. Who could be against that? We should have 100 U.S. Senators wanting to know the answer to that question, especially given what just happened over the last 96 hours, because maybe this debate is emboldening the Iranian proxies and terrorists. Maybe it is not. So let's get the answer.

My amendment would also make sure that it is 100 percent clear that if the 2002 AUMF is repealed, the United States can fully retaliate against the Iranians or any Iranian threat if they are threatening our country or our people.

I know that most of my colleagues here agree with that. We negotiated that language with some of my Democratic friends and Republican friends. So it is just that and this issue of asking the DNI to certify that what we are doing on the Senate floor right now is not going to undermine our deterrence against Iran and, oh, by the way, put more American lives at risk.

It is simple. I would be shocked if any Senator voted against wanting to know the answer to that basic question.

I am asking my colleagues to just think hard. Don't you want more information? Can't you wait 30 more days to get President Biden's DNI to certify that what we are doing right here in the Senate is not going to undermine deterrence and put more American lives at risk? I hope that all of my colleagues would agree with that and vote on my amendment.

Finally, I will just say, the deterrence that we regained with the justified killing of Soleimani has clearly been slipping away, particularly once the Biden administration came into office, and it is a concern.

I was on a recent bipartisan codel to the Middle East, and the No. 1 issue we were hearing about in every single stop by every single leader was the malign activities of Iran. You name the country we were in—and we were in a lot of them, all the Abraham Accords countries in Israel—Iran was the No. 1 topic and how aggressive they are getting.

The lifting of the terrorist designation for the Iranian-backed Houthis almost in the first month of this administration, February 2021, was a sign of weakening deterrence against Iran.

The administration's inability to stand firmly with the United Arab Emirates, one of our strongest allies in the Middle East, when it was attacked by Houthi missiles and drones—of course, with the Iranians' help—was something else that lessened our deterrence.

Just last week, when the CENTCOM Commander testified, he said there had been 78 similar attacks on American forces since 2021. We are losing deterrence. That is during the Biden administration's 2 years. They have been attacking the hell out of our troops. What are we doing? What are we doing?

The mullahs in Tehran, like all tyrants, are emboldened by accommodation. So I am asking my Senate colleagues to take the very prudent, logical, and responsible step to ask the DNI if what we are getting ready to do here on the Senate floor, which is to remove the 2002 AUMF, will that undermine our deterrence against Iran? Let's wait 30 days and get the answer.

Don't put your head in the sand, my colleagues. Stand up. See what the answer is from the DNI so we can move forward in a way that makes sense for our national security, deterrence of the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, and, most importantly, the ability to protect and defend our servicemembers serving overseas in places like Syria that are very dangerous.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:35 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ANN ELIZABETH CARLSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, VICE STEVEN SCOTT CLIFF.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

DAVID M.P. SPITLER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JORGE M. ARZOLA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 7064:

To be major

JAMES F. CANTORNA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 7064:

To be major

SANDEEP R. RAHANGDALE
CHRISTIE A. SHEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 7064:

To be major

SONG QU

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

TIMOTHY S. MCKIDDY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

KEVIN J. HUXFORD
SEUNG H. LEE
JOHN D. MCRAE II
BRANDON K. PETERSON
KEVIN D. POTTS
DAVID A. RIDGEWAY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be colonel

KYLE D. AEMISEGGER
ALICE L. ALVERIO
FERDINAND K. BACOMO
JOHN B. BALMAN
ETHAN S. BERGVALL
AARON M. BETTS
DAVID V. BODE
BRIAN W. BRENNAN
SHAUN R. BROWN
ANGELA R. BRYAN
MEGAN L. CHILDS
MICHELLE S. CLARK
GUY T. CLIFTON
CHRISTOPHER COWAN
JUSTIN M. CURLEY
JESSE P. DELUCA
SALLY P. DELVECCHIO
RAMONA A. DEVENNEY
MICHAEL M. DICKMAN
DELNORA L. ERICKSON
RYAN P. FLANAGAN
DENNIS T. FUJII
ANDREW C. GALLO
JOHN J. GARTSIDE
SUZANNE M. GILLERN
ROSCO S. GORE
JON R. GRAY
SKY D. GRAYBILL
AMIT K. GUPTA
JEFFREY A. GUTHRIE
MITCHELL T. HAMELE
MELINDA J. HAMER
JASON N. HARRIS
JACOB S. HOGUE
SONNY S. HUITRON
PAUL F. HWANG
BENJAMIN J. INGRAM
JONATHAN JI
MICHAEL J. KILBOURNE
JEEHUN M. KIM
RYAN M. KNIGHT
MATTHEW D. KUHNLE
NOELLE S. LARSON
GARY LEVY
JAMES E. MACE
ANTHONY L. MARK
ANA E. MARKELZ
SHANE P. MCENTIRE
BRANDI S. MCLEOD
NATHAN E. MCWHORTER
DAVID E. MENDOZA
GARRETT J. MEYERS
JOHN E. MUSSER
JAMES NICHOLSON
FREDERICK P. OBRIEN
MOROHUNRANTI OGUNTOYE OUMA
RASTISLAV OSADSKY
SHIMUL S. PATEL
TANVI D. PATEL
JESSICA J. PECK
KEITH H. PENSKA
PAUL G. PETERSON
JENNI PICKINPAUGHINOCENCIO

TIMOTHY P. PLACKETT
TORIE C. PLOWDEN
JOHN J. POULIN
NADER Z. RABIE
MEGHAN F. RALEIGH
LUIGI K. F. RAO
BRADLEY A. RITTENHOUSE
PAUL M. ROBBER
DEREK J. ROGERS
CHRISTOPHER J. ROSEMEYER
FRANCISCO C. RUBIO
JENNY L. RYAN
LIEN T. SENCHAK
JUSTIN M. SHIELDS
ADAM T. SOTO
DANIEL STINNER
ZOE E. SUNDELL
ERIC M. SWANSON
DANIEL J. TOLSON
WILLIAM WASHINGTON
PRISCILLA WEST
KRISTOPHER C. WILSON
NOUANSY K. WILTON
SEAN R. WISE
VLADIMIR S. YAKOPSON
PAULA YOUNG
D017212

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be colonel

AILEEN R. CABANADALOGAN
DANIEL G. CHATTERLEY
PETER N. DROUILLARD
NICKOLI DUBYK
JOSEPH M. DUTNER
BRANDON M. GAGE
JAMES M. GIESEN
KAREN E. GONZALEZTORRES
NGHIA N. HO
ANTHONY C. KIGHT
JACOB L. KITSON
AGNIESZKA KUCHARSKA
DAVID H. KWON
SLOAN D. MC LAUGHLIN
LARRY L. MUNK
ELIZABETH R. OATES
SAMUEL E. POINDEXTER
CRYSTAL J. SMITH
JOHN F. UNDERWOOD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

JEROME C. FERRIN

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 8287:

To be major

NATHAN D. MORRIS

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

RYAN E. DINNEN
MATHEW C. MILLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JILLIAN M. MEARS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

MARY J. HESSERT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

DAVID WAGENBORG

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF HARRY H. HERNDON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of Mr. Harry H. Herndon of Royse City, Texas. Mr. Herndon was born on August 5, 1947, one of four sons of J.E. Burr and Irma Wyatt Herndon.

Mr. Herndon graduated from Royse City High School in 1965 where he was named class favorite, wittiest, and most popular. Additionally, he was a class officer and a star football player for the Bulldogs for four years. Mr. Herndon later attended East Texas State University. On May 29, 1966, he married the love of his life, Virginia Lee Cross, with whom he had one daughter, Tena Michelle.

On October 19, 1967, Mr. Herndon heeded the call to serve his nation in the Vietnam War as a Platoon Sergeant in the 198th Light Infantry Brigade, Company D. During his deployment to Chu Lai, Vietnam, he received several awards, including the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnamese Service Medal, Vietnamese Campaign Medal, and Combat Infantry Badge.

Tragically, Mr. Herndon was mortally wounded in combat on October 18, 1968, while serving on a mission in Quang Tin, Vietnam. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his gallantry and wounds in combat. For his heroism and service to our country, Harry H. Herndon Elementary School in Fate, Texas, is dedicated in his honor.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize Mr. Herndon's life, valor, and service defending our great Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. MAYRENE BATES

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting contributions of Mrs. Mayrene Bates, longtime Solano County educator and trustee with the Solano Board of Education. Passing away at 88, Mrs. Bates leaves behind an indelible legacy of over fifty years of service to Solano County.

Born in 1934, in a small Tennessee town at the time of racial segregation, Mrs. Bates attended grade school in a one-room schoolhouse. Later, she was forced to travel 32 miles to attend high school, as the segregation laws of the time prohibited her from attending the nearby school. Despite these unjust and adverse beginnings, Mrs. Bates developed a love for learning and eventually earned a

scholarship to the Atlanta University Library School, where she obtained a master's degree in Library Science.

In 1955, Mrs. Bates married James Bates and his service in the Air Force brought them all over the world, ultimately leading them to establish a permanent home in Fairfield. In 1970, Mayrene began working as the librarian at Fairview Elementary School and Grange Intermediate School. She later served as the vice-principal for Crystal Elementary School and Fairfield High School and eventually, as the principal of Crystal Middle School and K.I. Jones Elementary School. In her multitude of roles, Mrs. Bates never failed to prioritize the youth of Solano County and ensure all students in her community had the resources necessary to achieve their full potential.

Following her extensive career with the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District, Mrs. Bates served as Director, and later as Assistant Superintendent, of the Solano County Office of Education. In 1997, her altruistic passion for supporting the students of Solano County led her to run for the Solano Board of Education, where she served until 2018. Throughout her tenure, she demonstrated steadfast dedication to the young people of her community and consistently advocated for programs to ensure all students have equal access to education.

Mrs. Bates' commitment to her community was expressed both through her decades of public service to Solano County and her vital work as President of the Fairfield-Cordelia Rotary Club and columnist for the Daily Republic. Her willingness to lend an ear and a helping hand to anyone in need earned her the widespread respect and gratitude of her community.

Mrs. Bates will be remembered not only for her decades of service to Solano County, but also for her genuine spirit of kindness and compassion. She impacted the lives of countless students and educators in her community and her steadfast leadership, constant smile, and patient mentorship undeniably enhanced the lives of her fellow Solano County residents.

Mrs. Bates' enduring spirit will live on in her husband, son, two grandchildren, and the community she dedicated her life to serving. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mrs. Bates' loved ones. I know that they, along with the people of Solano County, join me in celebrating her life and legacy.

RECOGNIZING REGISTERED NURSE KRYSTLE M. O'SHAUGHNESSY FOR RECEIVING THE SECRETARY'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN NURSING

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Registered Nurse Krystle M.

O'Shaughnessy for receiving the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing. Every year since 1984, the Department of Veterans Affairs has awarded several outstanding individuals with this great honor. These individuals are directors, nursing executives, registered nurses, licensed practical or vocational nurses, and nursing assistants, all actively involved in patient care. They are nominated by their peers and go through a rigorous review process.

This year, one of the awardees is New Hampshire's very own Krystle M. O'Shaughnessy. In her role as an LPN, Krystle served as the first point of contact for Veterans participating in the Home Telehealth program. This program has become well known in the Veteran community for its patient-driven care, health education, and effective management of patient diseases. During staff shortages at the VAMC, Krystle took on the extra job of managing telehealth compliance, ensuring that all Veterans were seen on time and taken care of, including COVID patients who needed close monitoring.

I look forward to seeing all that Krystle and the Manchester VAMC accomplish in the years to come. I am confident that the Veterans of Manchester, and all of New Hampshire, will continue to benefit from Krystle's hard work. On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I commend Krystle for receiving this high honor, and I commend her fellow staff for making the Manchester VAMC a reliable and trusted health care partner for NH Veterans. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF MRS. PATRICIA JOYCE SAUL ROCHON

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize New Orleans' beloved native daughter, wife, mother, true friend and confidant to many. Mrs. Patricia Joyce Saul Rochon departed this earth in the loving arms of her devoted family after a courageous and determined fight against metastatic cancer. She died on March 13, 2023, her 77th birthday, at Yale's Smilow Cancer Center in New Haven, Connecticut.

On March 21, 2023, Mrs. Rochon would have celebrated her 53rd wedding anniversary with her loving husband, Dr. Gilbert Rochon III, the 6th President of Tuskegee University; where Mrs. Rochon proudly served as Tuskegee University's First Lady.

Mrs. Rochon completed her early education in 1963 at St. Mary's Academy in New Orleans, LA. Four years later she graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana. Upon graduation she was accepted into and later graduated from Yale University's School of Drama,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

where she received her MFA in 1975. She also studied Communications at the Pennsylvania State University's College of Communications.

During her 16 years at Dillard University, Mrs. Rochon chaired the Department of Mass Communications. She later held a faculty appointment at the College of Communications at Purdue University. Mrs. Rochon was also an Emmy Award winning television news producer. She produced an array of television shows, which included, *Fast Track*, *Fast Track Te Informa*, *Primetime* and the New England Regional Emmy Award winning "Best Target Audience Series" *Urban Update* and *Black News*.

Mrs. Rochon is survived by her husband, Gilbert Rochon III, PhD, MPH; their daughter, Hildred Sarah Rochon, MD, MPH, MBA; their son, Emile Saul Rochon, MD; daughter-in-law, Jalelah Sophia Ahmed, MIA; son-in-law, Lillard Royal Lewis, Jr., MBA; grandson's Jayden Royal Lewis and Jameson Ramon Lewis; sisters, Anna Lois Saul Harrison and Margaret Ethel Saul Bordenave; brother, Herman James Saul, Jr.; brothers-in-law, Richard David Harrison; RADM Stephen Wayne Rochon, (RET.), Gregory Paul Rochon, Brandon Pierre Rochon; sisters-in-law, Sheryl Saul, Shirley Rochon and Janet Oliver Rochon; cousins Dr. Claudia Phillips Joplin, Dr. Michele Louise Phillips Pointer, Myra E. Phillips, JD and a host of beloved nephews, nieces and cousins!

She was preceded in death by her parents, Herman James Saul, Sr. and Louise Phillips Saul; Aunts, Magnettie Saul Perrault, Beulah Saul, Malcolm Saul, Florence Saul, Edith Saul; Uncles, Wallace Saul, Godfrey Saul, Dr. George Martin Phillips, Aunt Wimberly Ruth Phillips; Cousins George Martin Phillips Jr., Dr. Deborah Phillips Theado; sisters-in-law, Alexis Rochon, Dr. Melanie Rochon Bush; brothers-in-law Christopher Joseph Bordenave, III, Evan Ashley Rochon; grandmothers; Sarah Anna Merritt, Claudia Ethel Gates Phillips Tunnage and Marguerite Toye Saul; grandfathers, Joseph Saul and Thomas Phillips.

Patricia will forever be remembered as a devoted and loving wife and mother; a strong champion for the societal benefits of higher education; an advocate who served to advance the opportunities of students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and a fighter who believed in equitable health care access and equal opportunities for ethnic minorities and women. May she rest in peace and may God's perpetual light shine upon her.

HONORING THE WORK OF AMBASSADOR JAVLON VAKHABOV

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the work of Mr. Javlon Vakhabov, who is retiring from his role as Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the United States, Canada, and Brazil. Javlon was born August 7, 1980, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, which was at the time the capital of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic.

In 2001, Javlon earned his bachelor's degree in International Law from the University

of World Economy and Diplomacy. Subsequently, he graduated in 2003 from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy with his master's degree in International Law.

Javlon joined the Uzbek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2001, serving early career assignments as an attaché, 3rd secretary, and chief of division. In 2006, President Islam Karimov appointed Javlon to the Uzbek National Security Council, serving as leading consultant and as head consultant until 2011, when he was promoted to deputy secretary of the Council. For most of 2013, Javlon served as director of the Institute for Strategic and Inter-Regional Research, a government-funded think tank in Tashkent. In November of 2013, Javlon became one of the leadership team at the Foreign Ministry, as one of four deputy ministers of foreign affairs. On July 29, 2015, he was promoted to first deputy minister of foreign affairs, the title he held when he was appointed ambassador to the United States.

He has served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United States of America since late 2017. Since late 2018, he has served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Uzbekistan to Canada with residence in Washington, D.C.

I thank him for his leadership and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MARCH 27TH TO MARCH 31ST AS NATIONAL AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS (AHEC) WEEK

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize March 27th to March 31st as National Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Week.

The AHEC program was originally authorized in 1971 to enhance the workforce of health professionals who staff brick-and-mortar Community Health Centers. Today, Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) offer hands-on and innovative health career curriculums for pre-college level students, and are committed to continuing education, clinical training of health professionals and responding to community health needs. The nation's 300 AHECs are in nearly every state and in multiple U.S. territories. Administered by the HRSA, AHECs are federally funded, and many are also supported by state governments, foundations, or other partners.

AHEC clinical training placements put health professional students in a variety of real-world settings, such as migrant, urban, and rural community health clinics and health departments that provide healthcare to rural and underserved populations. Connecting students to community populations helps facilitate future engagement and help build network alliances for health career students who wish to remain in their clinical practice regions and continue providing more sustainable healthcare in rural and underserved areas following their training.

AHECs are also responsive to community priorities. They are dedicated to collaboratively developing community health education curriculums, for both online and face-to-face train-

ing programs, through unique partnerships that meet the broader range of public health needs of diverse and severely rural and underserved populations.

The need to strengthen the healthcare workforce, particularly for underserved communities, has become far more acute over the past several years. According to new Association of American Medical Colleges, the U.S. could see a shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2034, and the American Hospital Association says more than 200,000 new registered nurses are needed each year to meet increasing health care needs and to replace nurses entering retirement. AHECs continue to be committed to addressing shortage areas and expanding the healthcare workforce, while maximizing diversity and facilitating distribution, especially in rural and underserved communities.

In the past 5 years, the AHEC program has trained 2 million healthcare professionals, who are prepared to deliver culturally appropriate, high-quality, team-based care, with an emphasis on primary care for rural and underserved populations.

I have developed a close relationship with and am proud to support the Nevada AHEC program. I have previously led efforts to increase funding for the national AHEC program in recent fiscal years. As highlighted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Nevada's health workforce needs to be prepared to meet their communities' needs now more than ever. The Nevada AHEC program is one way we will be able to continue to make a significant and sustainable impact in improving healthcare services for the rural and most underserved areas of our state. By having programs that are responsive to local and community needs, and by connecting health students and professionals early on in their careers to the most vulnerable communities, the Nevada AHEC program continues to create a culturally and structurally competent health workforce to tackle the unique challenges our state faces.

On behalf of my constituents, the Nevada AHEC program and the national AHEC program more broadly, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing March 27th to March 31st as National AHEC Week.

PATHWAY LA'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Pathways LA on 45 years of service to the district.

Pathways LA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to strengthen low-income and vulnerable working families, promote high quality early care and education services for children of all abilities, develop knowledgeable early care providers and promote economically resilient communities. Since its founding Pathways LA has been committed to the healthy development and school readiness of young children from disadvantaged communities.

With a staff of more than 60 individuals who reflect the linguistic and cultural composition of the families they serve, Pathways LA assists thousands of families and children every year,

while continuing to support and train more than 950 childcare providers.

Driven by data and innovation, Pathways LA's experts support the continuum of care that includes parents, childcare providers, community partners and policymakers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the 45th anniversary of Pathways LA.

IN MEMORY OF SUPREME COURT
CHIEF JUSTICE JACK HOLT, JR.

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Arkansas Supreme Court Chief Justice, Jack Holt, Jr., who passed away on March 5, 2023.

Former Chief Justice Holt began his career in the United States Air Force, where he achieved the rank of Colonel.

He then went on to work in Arkansas as a deputy prosecutor, chief assistant attorney general, and ultimately served as our Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court for 10 years, from 1985 to 1995.

Jack Holt will be remembered for his significant contributions to the modern justice system that exists in Arkansas, including the creation of our juvenile courts.

Justice Holt is accredited with setting up the essential parts of our court systems.

His advancement of the education requirement for attorneys and creation of more staff positions to help circuit court judges has greatly improved the effectiveness of justice in my state.

I thank Chief Justice Holt for his many years of service and contributions to the state of Arkansas.

His legacy truly lives on.

My prayers of comfort are with his wife Jane, their family and their friends.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
CHARLES VERNON PARKER

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Charles Vernon Parker of Austin, Texas. Charlie, to his friends and family. Over the last three decades, Charlie Parker has been a leader in the business community, in construction, real estate, and many other areas. Charlie's companies have completed massive projects across the United States, providing jobs and opportunities to dozens of Americans.

Beyond Charlie's vast accomplishments in the business world, he has been one of our Nation's greatest advocates and leaders in drug and alcohol addiction recovery. As a person in long-term recovery, Charlie has been clean and sober since 1984, and in the three decades since, he has traveled the world with his wife and best friend Katie, as one of the most sought-after addiction recovery motivational speakers. Despite hundreds of thou-

sands of CDs of his motivational talks being sold across the world, Charlie never accepted any fees or gratuities, seeing helping people achieve sobriety as God's calling for his life. To date, thousands of men across the world attribute their freedom from addiction to Charlie Parker.

Charlie Parker served on the board of directors of Austin Recovery and was a large benefactor of dozens of charitable organizations and was an active member of his Christian church.

Recently diagnosed with a terminal illness, Mr. Parker is spending his final chapter still actively working with the men he mentors and being a force for God, and a force for good every day in our Nation, as well as spending time with his loved ones, his daughters Sadie and Grace, his grandchildren, and his loving wife, Katie.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful to commemorate the life of Charles Vernon Parker.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR LLOYD
M. ALAIMALO

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Major Lloyd M. Alaimalo on his retirement from the United States Army. Major Alaimalo has had an illustrious career lasting over 30 years serving both on active duty and in the reserves. In American Samoa, our men and women of the Armed Forces are very important to us. The people of our islands take great pride in being patriotic Americans and our people are known for a high rate of service in our military. Major Alaimalo serves as a prime example of this type of dedication, and I would like to recognize all the work he has done on behalf of the United States and our people. MAJ Alaimalo was born in Long Beach, California but his home is the village of Vatia, American Samoa. His career began when he enlisted in the Army in June of 1990 as a cannon crewmember. He has had multiple overseas tours and deployments including assignments in Greece, Iraq, and Kuwait. His first duty assignment as an officer was with the 542nd Support Maintenance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA. His last assignment before retiring was Assistant Product Manager for Joint Program Protection (JPM-P), Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defense (JPEO CBRND) at Stafford, VA. In between those milestones he served his nation well in a variety of leadership roles and was an exemplary soldier. MAJ Alaimalo's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal with four campaign stars, the Global War on Terrorism Expedition Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Combat Action Badge. In congratulating this outstanding officer today, we also express our deep appreciation to all who serve, including the many in uniform from American Samoa serving with distinction all

over the world. I thank MAJ Alaimalo, for his outstanding leadership and his commitment to our Soldiers, American Samoa, and our great Nation. and I thank his wife, Elisapeta Leilani Areta, and their son, Ropeti, for supporting Lloyd while he served his country. "God bless and good health." Fa'amanuia le Atua i ou ala. Soifua.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR TOM REID

HON. TROY E. NEHLS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the great Tom Reid, who was recently honored with a post office in my district. Mayor Reid has led a life of service to Pearland, the great state of Texas, and this country.

Tom has an impressive resume. He served in the United States Navy during World War II and worked for NASA's Johnson Space Center.

He also served as the Mayor of Pearland for nearly four decades.

Spending more than 50 years in government, Tom served on the City Council and municipal boards. As one of the longest-serving elected city officials in the area, he was Mayor from 1978 through 1990. In 1993, he successfully ran for re-election and held the position until his recent retirement in 2020.

During his time as Mayor, Tom ensured the city of Pearland had the infrastructure it needed.

Without the passion, grit, and determination that Tom embodies, Pearland would not be where it is today.

There's no doubt that the legacy of Mayor Reid will live on in the city of Pearland for years to come.

I am honored to recognize the dedication of a post office in recognition of his selfless service.

I thank Mr. Reid for his heartfelt contributions to the great city of Pearland. May his service inspire others to do the same for future generations to come.

REMEMBERING SAMUEL S. LIONEL

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congresswoman TITUS, in remembrance of Samuel Lionel, who passed away at the age of 103, after a remarkable legal career.

For decades, Sam represented one of the largest law firms in Nevada, fighting for issues critical to the state, including tourism and economic development.

Sam was passionate about law from the start. He studied at St. John's University in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated from the University and later received honorary doctorate law degrees from St. John's, UNLV, and California Western School of Law. Sam retired as a Lieutenant Colonel and JAG officer in the Army. During World War II he was stationed in North Africa and Italy and taught at West Point

for his last three years of active duty. He was also stationed at the Pentagon for three years while working as a JAG officer.

Sam subsequently moved to Nevada to practice law, and in 1967, founded the law firm Lionel, Sawyer, Collins (LSC) with former Governor of Nevada Grant Sawyer as his partner. LSC gained a national reputation for its representation of the Las Vegas hotel owners and other notable figures. Sam was also Chairman of the Board of the Nevada Bar and a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He argued three significant cases in the Supreme Court and served as a member of the Ninth Circuit Senior Advisory Board of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals judicial council.

In addition to his notable career, Sam was also active in the philanthropic community. He was a member of Congregation Ner Tamid and a key supporter of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, endowing the namesake Samuel S. Lionel Professor of Intellectual Property Law position at the William S. Boyd School of Law.

Sam leaves behind a legacy as one of the greatest American trial lawyers. He is survived by his wife Lexy Lionel; his daughter, Dana, and her four sons, Shaun (Kylee), Christopher, Austin, and Andrew (Courtney); two great-grandchildren, Katelyn and Kiera; four stepsons, Hal Barber IV (Laura), Zachary Capp, Joshua Capp, and Daniel Capp; four step-grandchildren, Neil Uchitel (Carla), Rachel Uchitel, Stoney Barber, Missy Barber; and several great-grand-children, nieces, and a nephew.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF ROGER SEAVER

HON. MIKE GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement and commend the service of Roger Seaver, an individual who has helped transform Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital from a local center for great healthcare into a world-renowned institution at the forefront of quality patient services. After five decades of hard work and contributions to Southern California hospitals he will be enjoying his well-deserved retirement with his wife Rizalina, his three children, and two grandchildren.

After serving in the Army and graduating from the University of South Dakota. Roger first began working in the health care field in 1973. He soon worked his way through several other prestigious Los Angeles area hospitals including Glendale Memorial Hospital and Northridge Hospital, making vital contributions to their operations and success. However, as a community we are blessed by the fact that he made his greatest contributions as Chief Executive Officer at Henry Mayo Hospital.

Under his leadership for two decades, Henry Mayo has become one of the most prestigious and successful hospitals in California, prioritizing the best care for their pa-

tients and the best treatment for their staff. Since 2001, Henry Mayo has not only grown in size, but also in the range of services they provide to the Santa Clarita community and the 27th District at large. He has championed advances such as a new breast center, a new cardiovascular center, a neonatal intensive care center, an expanded ICU and emergency department, and a state-of-the-art patient tower. Perhaps most importantly, he steered the hospital through the COVID-19 pandemic, when hospitals all around the country were struggling to meet the needs of their community. In the case of Henry Mayo, thanks to Roger our communities needs were not only met, but our expectations were also exceeded.

I cannot commend Roger enough for his service to California's 27th District. We thank him for his stewardship of Henry Mayo Hospital, and while we will miss him, his retirement and the opportunity to spend more time with friends and loved ones is certainly deserved after a long and successful career.

HONORING THE CHATHAM, NEW YORK PANTHERS VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chatham, New York Panthers Varsity Basketball team for their recent attainment of 2nd place in the New York State Class C Regional Final.

After a magical run this season, they deserve to be recognized for their hard work and perseverance. This achievement is a record for Chatham, a feat that they should be very proud of.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing Chatham for this remarkable achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE METUCHEN DOWNTOWN ALLIANCE '2023 GREAT AMERICAN MAIN STREET OF THE YEAR' DESIGNATION

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Borough of Metuchen and the Metuchen Downtown Alliance on its selection as a 2023 Great American Main Street of the Year recipient. I am proud to join with Metuchen Downtown Alliance members, borough officials, and residents in celebrating this achievement.

Since its launch in 1995, the Great American Main Street Award (GAMSA) program has recognized over one hundred Main Street communities that have made significant improvements to their business districts. Finalists exemplify Main Street America's mission to revitalize downtowns through thoughtful, innovative, and collaborative measures. This year,

the Metuchen Downtown Alliance was selected as one of three winners and joins only two other New Jersey communities in receiving this designation.

Established in 2016, the Metuchen Downtown Alliance (MDA) is a volunteer-based non-profit organization led by its Executive Director, Dawn Mackey. In seven short years, MDA has transformed Metuchen's downtown and attracted more businesses, residents, and visitors to the area. The business district has seen its vacancy rate drop from 20% in 2016 to an all-time low, single-digit vacancy rate today. The diverse shops and restaurants, along with a wide array of programs and events, reflect the diversity and inclusive environment of the greater community.

Through its initiatives, investments, and partnerships, MDA has revitalized Main Street, improved streetscapes and adapted to changing needs, while maintaining the historic charm of the town. From the creation of Town Plaza to the ongoing development of an Arts District, Metuchen continues its growth. The efforts of the borough and MDA underscore how strong leadership, community involvement, and targeted improvements can maintain sustained economic vitality and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a joyous occasion to recognize the success of the Metuchen Downtown Alliance and the leadership of the Borough of Metuchen. This honor celebrates the resiliency and dedication of the community and I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in applauding this recognition.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JEANNE ELLEN PATTERSON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Jeanne Ellen Patterson. Mrs. Patterson was born on April 5, 1935, in Chicago, Illinois, to Frank Patterson and Dorothy Grace Patterson.

In her early years, she grew up on a farm in Virginia where she learned the value of a hard day's work and a quality education. Mrs. Patterson attended Brigham Young University for her undergraduate degree and continued her studies by pursuing postgraduate work at the University of Arizona, the University of California in Los Angeles, and the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Her passion was politics, and she worked as a consultant to two U.S. Senators, a Mexican Federal Senator, a U.S. Governor, and the President of the United States.

Even as Mrs. Patterson excelled in her career, her main priority was always her family, whom she loved very much. She enjoyed knitting sweaters, painting portraits, writing, and spending time with her children. Most importantly, she loved cooking for her family, who were very fond of her culinary talents.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize Mrs. Patterson's amazing life and service. She will be dearly missed by her friends, family, and all who knew her.

HONORING FORMER
REPRESENTATIVE BOB CARR

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge a fellow Midwesterner and former colleague from the state of Michigan, Bob Carr, on his 80th birthday. Bob has spent a lifetime in public service and education and continues to have a lasting impact on our institution.

Bob served this body for 18 years, representing Michigan's 6th and 8th Congressional Districts. During his time in Congress, he proudly served on the Armed Services Committee and then on Appropriations, where he worked to end the United States' military involvement in Southeast Asian conflicts.

After leaving Congress, Bob continued on the path of public service both at the Association of Former Members of Congress and with the Brookings LEGIS Fellows program. Every step along the way, he has improved the political discourse and helped hundreds of civil servants get an inside perspective of this institution we love, thereby fostering more constructive engagement between the executive and legislative branches of government. His career has helped set an example for all of us on how to work together to improve our government and our country.

Both my constituents and I personally have benefitted from the high caliber of professionalism and expertise of LEGIS Fellows who have served, and continue to serve, each year on my staff.

Happy Birthday to Bob, and I thank him for his continued public service and enduring contributions to this Nation.

THANKING MARISA BURLESON
FOR HER SERVICE TO KANSAS

HON. JAKE LATURNER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation for a member of my staff for her dedicated service to the people of Kansas. From day one of my first term in Congress, Marisa Burleson has served the Second Congressional District as Director of Operations in Washington, D.C., with commitment and distinction.

Marisa's knowledge, hard work, diligence, and grit have ensured my office is serving Kansans to the best of our ability. She lent her experience to help first organize the office, has consistently exceeded the expectations of constituents and colleagues, and has continuously solved seemingly unsolvable scheduling conflicts. Marisa is a fervid Texan, but we have been proud to have her and will continue to be proud to have her as an honorary Kansan and look forward to seeing her excel in her new endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JACK FAEGRE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jack Oliver Faegre. His familiar face, engaging personality and the guidance he regularly provided will be missed within the Robson Ranch community and among local voters who knew him for his faithful service each cycle.

While widely known within Denton County, like many North Texans, Jack became a proud Texan after spending most of his youth in the Midwest. Jack was born June 15, 1934 to Selmer Albert Faegre and Mabel Lucile Monroe in Jefferson Township, Allamakee County, Iowa. He graduated from Iowa State University with an Engineering Degree and served as an officer in the Army Corps of Engineers from 1959 to 1969; retiring as a Captain.

After serving in the Corps, Jack settled in Texas to raise his family, working initially at Texas Instruments in Dallas before moving to other engineering roles at Frito-Lay and Rockwell International. A lifelong supporter of the Dallas Cowboys, Jack was also an avid skier in his younger years and loved taking ski vacations with his family. He eventually retired from Rockwell International and settled into the Robson Ranch Community just outside of Denton.

During his retirement years, he was highly active in Denton County elections as an Election Judge and served as Republican Precinct Chair for Robson Ranch, the only person to hold that office in his precinct. One of his passions was making sure that the people in his community had an opportunity to vote. He was very instrumental in convincing the Robson executives to allow the clubhouse to be a polling site for Early and Election Day Voting.

The void Jack leaves will be felt by his family, friends, and all who knew him. I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Creeda, and his entire family. I join them in the appreciation of his memory and in celebrating the long-term impact he had on the lives and communities where he was so actively engaged.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF
MAYOR MICHAEL BOEHM

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Mr. Michael Boehm, five-term Mayor of the City of Lenexa, Kansas. Mayor Boehm was first elected in April of 2003, after being appointed to the position in January of the same year while serving on the Lenexa City Council. Mr. Boehm is a lifelong Kansas resident, graduating from Olathe High School in 1978 and the University of Kansas in 1982.

Mayor Boehm has been a devoted public servant and transformed the City of Lenexa during his tenure as Mayor. Under his leadership, Lenexa annexed 2,172 acres of land and grew by over 20,000 residents, while the Mayor spearheaded the economic moderniza-

tion of the city through a series of infrastructure projects.

In 2007, the City of Lenexa and the Kansas Department of Transportation began making improvements to West 87th Street Parkway and the U.S. 69 and Interstate-35 exchange. This project was the catalyst for the revitalization of downtown Lenexa. In 2017, under Mayor Boehm's leadership, the City opened the new Civic Center, relocating City Hall and establishing both the Lenexa Recreation Center and the Lenexa Public Market.

The completion of 87th Street Parkway led to the development of the nearby Lenexa City Center, a now thriving business, living, and entertainment district. In addition to the Public Market and the Rec Center, Lenexa City Center has since grown to include an aquatic center, a Johnson County Public Library branch, and the Park University Lenexa campus.

While Mayor of Lenexa, Mr. Boehm concurrently served on the Lenexa Chamber of Commerce Board, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Board of Directors, the Johnson County Community College Foundation Board of Directors, and the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Mayor Boehm is also an active member of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Lenexa, Kansas.

Most recently, in October of 2022, Mayor Boehm received the Excellence in Government Award from the Kansas League of Municipalities. This award honors excellence and leadership at the highest level, demonstrated outstanding service to the awardee's city, and an active commitment to strong local government. I cannot think of better words to encapsulate Mr. Boehm's twenty-year career as Mayor of Lenexa.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mayor Boehm on his illustrious tenure as Mayor of Lenexa, Kansas. Mayor Boehm will continue his work as senior vice president at Commerce Bank. I wish Mayor Boehm a peaceful and prosperous retirement from the City of Lenexa and thank him for his public service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARVIN
KAHN

HON. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Marvin Kahn, a proud champion of Florida's citrus industry.

Marvin was born in Sebring, Florida on April 18, 1933. From his earliest days, he grew to appreciate his family's orange groves with his sister and two brothers. It was clear from an early age that Marvin was on track to do great things in our community's agricultural sector. He developed a keen interest in both oranges and cattle. In high school, he joined the Future Farmers of America, served on student council and was elected as a class officer each year.

Marvin pursued an agricultural education at the University of Florida, where he graduated in 1956 with a major in Animal Science and a minor in Citrus. It was there that he met his future wife, Elsa Babette Kessler. They later had two children, Steven and Leah.

After graduating, Marvin put his expertise into practice by developing a cattle ranch in Hardee County. He and Elsa lived there for two years before moving back home to Sebring to manage his family's groves. He then founded Kahn Groves, Inc. to manage his family's property. Marvin later expanded his operations by launching Kahn Grove Services in 1969 to care for properties in Highlands, Hardee and Polk counties. He quickly developed a reputation as a "grower's grower" thanks to his philosophy of providing personalized service for his customers.

Marvin served on the Florida Citrus Commission from 1971 to 1979 at a time when the industry was booming. He was a member of the Highlands County and Florida Farm Bureau for more than 65 years, serving as president of the board. He also served as president of the Highlands County Cattleman's Association and First President of the Florida Beef Council. Marvin was deeply committed to FFA and was a founding member of the Highlands County 4-H Club Foundation. He was honored for his significant contributions to Florida agriculture with his induction into the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame in 2018.

On behalf of Florida's 18th Congressional District, I know that Marvin will be deeply missed by our community. But his contributions will be remembered by his friends, family and neighbors for years to come.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION HOMECOMING

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of Operation Homecoming, the vital mission to safely return American Prisoners of War from Vietnam to America. These American Prisoners of War displayed extraordinary fortitude and bravery, exemplifying the best of America through their resilience and selflessness in the face of adversity and hardship.

In 1973, as part of the Paris Peace Accords, 591 American Prisoners of War held by North Vietnam were freed and safely returned to American soil. The first group of 20 former Prisoners of War released from the prison camps in North Vietnam landed at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California. Over 300 family members were present to welcome home these valiant and loyal servicemembers. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave individuals that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courage American Prisoners of War exhibited during their captivity in North Vietnam. These individuals demonstrated remarkable endurance and heroism while being forced to withstand harsh conditions and cruel treatment. The valiant servicemembers that returned during Operation Homecoming epitomize the values of perseverance and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to honor the 50th

anniversary of Operation Homecoming and extend my sincere gratitude to all American Prisoners of War freed through this mission, for their sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

RECOGNIZING VA MEDICAL CENTER DIRECTOR KEVIN FORREST FOR RECEIVING THE SECRETARY'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN NURSING

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of VA Medical Center Director Kevin Forrest for receiving the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing. Every year since 1984, the Department of Veterans Affairs has awarded several outstanding individuals with this great honor. These individuals are directors, nursing executives, registered nurses, licensed practical or vocational nurses, and nursing assistants, all actively involved in patient care. They are nominated by their peers and go through a rigorous review process.

This year, one of the awardees is New Hampshire's very own Kevin Forrest. Since first joining the VA in 2012, Kevin has been a tireless advocate for Veterans' health all across New England and now in Manchester, New Hampshire. His previous experience combined with his ability to build relationships at the medical center have been key elements in his leadership strategy. He has run the Manchester VAMC with confidence, providing care to over 30,000 Veterans all across New Hampshire. His guidance helped the center overcome many challenges throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, and was appreciated by Veterans, employees, and the community alike.

I look forward to seeing all that Kevin and the Manchester VAMC accomplish in the years to come. I am confident that the Veterans of Manchester, and all of New Hampshire, will continue to benefit from Kevin's leadership. On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I commend Kevin for receiving this high honor, and I commend his amazing staff for making the Manchester VAMC one of the best-run veteran medical centers in the country. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to cast my vote against H.R. 5, the so-called "Parents Bill of Rights Act" on March 24, 2023, due to my ongoing recovery from surgery. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call 161.

We should encourage all parents to be engaged in their child's education and active in their school community, but H.R. 5—under the guise of parental rights—undermines our public education system.

Instead of working to keep children safe in the classroom, provide better wages for teachers, and empower students of all backgrounds to learn more about the world around them, Republicans would rather help far-right extremists whitewash history in public schools.

Our children deserve to learn without being caught in divisive culture wars. These partisan attacks on our students, particularly LGBTQ+ and minority students, need to stop.

CELEBRATING THE SCHOOL RENAMING IN HONOR OF THE LATE MRS. ROSE MARY BILLIPS LOVING

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding, cherished public servant from my home State of Louisiana. Mrs. Rose Mary Loving, born Rose Mary Billips, was the first African-American woman elected to the Orleans Parish School Board and served from 1977 to 1989. Mrs. Loving was elected board president in 1982, 1983 and 1985. She was also a former director of the Algiers-Fischer Community Center.

Even before her election to the board, Mrs. Loving was involved with the public schools for two decades as a committed parent and was also active in Chapter 1, a federal program providing remedial education to schools in low-income areas.

At her last board meeting, she was honored by school officials, employees and other well-wishers. Mrs. Loving pointed out her 15-year-old granddaughter in the audience to show that she had a special reason to stay involved with the schools. "I'm not going very far," she said. This weekend, we continue to recognize Mrs. Rose Mary's unwavering commitment and numerous contributions to the school system, naming a local elementary school in her honor.

Nearly a year ago, New Orleans Public School System responded to public requests to rename school facilities. This renaming is in accordance with policy approved by the Orleans Parish School Board to ensure school facilities do not have names honoring figures from our painful past. The board believed all schools should be welcoming, inclusive, and inspiring places for all students. The goal was to ensure the names of these physical school facilities and the people that we honor reflect the values of the school district, like Mrs. Loving did throughout her life and her time serving on the board.

As their policy states, the OPSB is fundamentally opposed to retaining names of school facilities named after persons who were slave owners, confederate officials, or segregation supporters.

After months of public input, hundreds of name considerations and historical research, the Orleans Parish School Board unanimously voted and approved NOLA Public Schools list of recommendations for the renaming of several public-school buildings.

The District received more than 250 name recommendations that were vetted and considered. Mrs. Rose Mary Loving's name is replacing Martin Behrman, a former slave

owner, and she is one of 24 selected honorees that are now listed as the historic names of school properties.

Mrs. Lovings dedication to her community is evident through the many accolades she was awarded in her lifetime. A longtime volunteer and community activist, Mrs. Loving was known for her work with the elderly and low-income families. She was the first president of the Metropolitan School Boards Association. She was a two-term member of the city's Human Relations Committee and served on former Mayor Ernest N. "Dutch" Morial's commission to chart a course for the city's future. She was a co-founder of the Emergency Fund for United Churches of Algiers, and in 1982 she received the Torch of Liberty Award from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Mrs. Loving was a former member of the deaconess board at St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church in Algiers. Rose Mary was even awarded an honorary Doctor of Education by Xavier University of Louisiana.

Rose Mary Loving was born in Kenner and lived in Algiers at the time of her passing. Her impact in this community throughout her 82 years of life continues to be felt still to this day.

I am honored to have personally known Mrs. Rose Mary Loving. I am especially humbled knowing that her name will be honored on a school within Louisiana's Second Congressional District.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CODE RETURNING CITIZENS COORDINATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the District of Columbia Code Returning Citizens Coordination Act, which would require the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to provide information to the District of Columbia government on individuals convicted of felonies under D.C. law in BOP custody. Currently, BOP provides no information to D.C. on these individuals, even immediately before release, which inhibits reentry, increases recidivism and harms public safety. Last Congress, the Committee on Oversight and Reform passed this bill.

Federal law requires BOP to incarcerate individuals convicted of felonies under D.C. law. There are currently 3,200 such individuals in BOP custody, and they are located in prisons throughout the United States. This unique custody arrangement creates several obstacles to successful reentry, including information sharing among agencies.

BOP asserts that federal privacy laws prohibit it from providing any information to D.C. on these individuals, which prevents D.C. from having services ready for them when they return from prison. Yet, studies consistently show the importance of health care, housing, education, job training and substance use disorder treatment for successful reentry.

This bill would require BOP to provide D.C. 2 types of information on each individual convicted of a D.C. Code felony in BOP custody. Every 90 days, BOP would provide the name, age, Federal Register Number, facility where

housed and the scheduled release date. Upon D.C.'s request, BOP would provide D.C. the same information that BOP provides to the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA) on these individuals, such as their release plan. CSOSA is a federal agency that supervises individuals convicted of D.C. Code felonies on supervised release and parole.

D.C. would be allowed to provide the biographical information only to counsel for the individuals, and to organizations that provide legal representation to individuals in criminal or post-conviction matters, or in matters related to reentry. D.C. would not be allowed to provide any of the other information, and D.C. law enforcement agencies would not have access to any of the information.

The overwhelming majority of people in prison return home. I hope everyone agrees on the importance of successful reentry.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Vietnam War Veterans Day and the hundreds of Vietnam veterans across New Hampshire who bravely served in all branches of our Armed Forces. Fifty years ago, on March 29, 1973, the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam and the remaining American prisoners of war were released.

On this day, in accordance with the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act, we remember and honor the more than seven million U.S. Vietnam War veterans who served from November 1955 to May 1975. We solemnly commemorate their sacrifices as part of a national effort to stand with these remarkable individuals and thank them for their service and sacrifice.

We also honor the tens of thousands of Americans who were wounded in the conflict, the 1,253 missing in action heroes who have not yet been returned to American soil, and the 2,500 Americans taken as prisoners of war.

The veterans of the Vietnam War come from all walks of life, but are united by the common thread of service to their country and in defense of democracy. As a Nation, it is important for us to not just offer our thanks whenever possible but to ensure that Vietnam veterans get the care and help they need. Because sentiments and platitudes ring hollow without action to ensure that our veterans get the care, services and respect they have earned.

As President Kennedy said of those who have served in uniform: "as we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." That is why, as the Representative for New Hampshire's First Congressional District and a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I remain committed to ensuring that all veterans, in New Hampshire and across the country, have access to the care and benefits their service has earned.

Our Vietnam veterans play an essential role in our communities when they return from service. They are teachers, first responders, and members of law enforcement. They volunteer for local organizations, serve in local government, and inspire the next generation of Americans to give back to their country.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I salute the bravery of all New Hampshire Vietnam veterans, and I urge my fellow Granite Staters to thank the veterans in their lives for their service and find ways to continue to pay down the debt that we all share for that sacrifice.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PASTOR DWIGHT ALLEN PRUITT

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a beloved community leader, Pastor Dwight Allen Pruitt of Dayton, Texas, who passed away on February 23, 2023, at 62 years old.

Pastor Pruitt was born on November 24, 1961, in Dayton, Texas, to the late Eural and Lois Lee Pruitt. As a young man, he was heavily influenced by his grandmother, Vester Lee Earls, who shared the gospel with him. Her testimony and lessons led him to accept Christ at an early age.

In the early 1990s, Dwight felt called to enter ministry. While attending St. Miles Missionary Baptist Church in Ames, Texas, he preached his first sermon. In time, Pastor Pruitt was ordained and called to serve as Pastor of St. Miles Missionary Baptist Church, a congregation he led for nearly 13 years.

In 2004, Pastor Pruitt obtained a Bachelor of Theology degree from the United Christian Theological Institution in Houston, Texas. During his tenure at St. Miles, he implemented Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), and a prison outreach program, all of which still exist today and minister to the needs of Liberty County residents.

In addition to his ministry, Pastor Pruitt was devoted to and an advocate for his community. After serving on the Dayton City Council from 2012 to 2017, he was elected again in 2022 and was a member until his passing. He was also a member of the Liberty County Hospital District No. 1 Board, the Dayton Community Development Corporation, the City of Dayton Park Board, and retired from the Liberty County Appraisal District.

Mr. Speaker, it was a privilege to know and work with Pastor Dwight Pruitt. I will always appreciate his faith and leadership in our community, and my most sincere prayers remain with his family, friends, and church congregation during this difficult time.

USO ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, I was grateful to attend the

United Service Organizations (USO) 2023, 41st Annual Awards Dinner at The Anthem, presented by The Boeing Company.

I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Mr. J.D. Crouch who serves as the President and CEO of USO. Additionally, I had the honor of watching all the USO Service Members of the Year from each of the military services receive their awards from their respective military service chiefs for their unique acts of heroism.

The honorees were the following service members: U.S. Army Sergeant Erick Ceja, U.S. Navy Cryptologist Seaman Ty Knight, U.S. Marine Corps-Corporal Alec Cruz, U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Blake Metscher, U.S. Space Force Sergeant Octavio Castruita, U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Second Class Jacob Flores, and U.S. National Guard Specialist Solomon J. Doss. I am grateful for each of these members and their steadfast dedication to our military families and the defense of our country.

The USO Achievement Award was presented to Washington Commanders Coach Ron Rivera for his high standard of military appreciation and commitment to educating the National Football League community members on the significance of supporting our military and their families.

The extraordinary program of deserved tributes was concluded by a stunning production of "God Bless the USA" by the beloved patriot Lee Greenwood.

We appreciate each of this year's award recipients for their service to the American people and the United Service Organizations' support of U.S. troops since war criminal Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF HOWARD "CORKY" FORD CLARK

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Howard "Corky" Clark who passed away on March 9th of this year. Howard was a devoted father, husband, Navy veteran, and pillar of his community.

Howard will long be remembered for many meaningful contributions he made to his community of Tivoli, New York. Along with being an incredibly accomplished chef, he served as an EMT, lifetime volunteer firefighter, member of the American Legion, and Village of Tivoli Justice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the memory of Howard "Corky" Clark. While we mourn his passing, we celebrate his life and the legacy he leaves behind. May his life and memory always be a blessing.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to be present for votes in the House last week. My son was getting married, and I was attending his wedding festivities.

Had I been present, I would have voted: Yea on rollcall No. 144; Yea on rollcall No. 145; Yea on rollcall No. 146; Yea on rollcall No. 147; Yea on rollcall No. 148; Yea on rollcall No. 149; No on rollcall No. 150; No on rollcall No. 151; No on rollcall No. 152; Yea on rollcall No. 153; Yea on rollcall No. 154; No on rollcall No. 155; No on rollcall No. 156; No on rollcall No. 157; No on rollcall No. 158; No on rollcall No. 159; No on rollcall No. 160; Yea on rollcall No. 161; and Yea on rollcall No. 162.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 29

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-124

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity

To hold hearings to examine enterprise cybersecurity to protect the Department of Defense Information Networks.

SR-232A

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Agriculture.

SD-192

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the cost of oil dependence in a low-carbon world.

SD-608/VTC

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine advancing next generation aviation technologies.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the EPA Good Neighbor rule, focusing on healthier air for downwind states.

SD-406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the need to end illegal union busting at Starbucks.

SD-G50

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 670, to improve services for trafficking victims by establishing, in Homeland Security Investigations, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program and the Victim Assistance Program, S. 311, to correct the inequitable denial of enhanced retirement and annuity benefits to certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers, S. 285, to provide for the perpetuation, administration, and funding of Federal Executive Boards, S. 264, to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to require certain disclosures by registrants regarding exemptions under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, S. 211, to authorize the Administrator of General Services to establish an enhanced use lease pilot program, S. 709, to improve performance and accountability in the Federal Government, S. 717, to improve plain writing and public experience, S. 666, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Chief Operating Officer of each agency to compile a list of unnecessary programs, S. 824, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a national risk management cycle, S. 884, to establish a Government-wide approach to improving digital identity, S. 885, to establish a Civilian Cybersecurity Reserve in the Department of Homeland Security as a pilot project to address the cybersecurity needs of the United States with respect to national security, S. 479, to modify the fire management assistance cost share, S. 780, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to analyze certain legislation in order to prevent duplication of and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives, S. 108, to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance, S. 111, to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule-making, to include a link to a 100-word plain language summary of the proposed rule, S. 349, to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize the appointment of spouses of members of the Armed Forces who are on active duty, disabled, or deceased to positions in which the spouses will work remotely, S. 243, to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities, S. 310, to establish an advisory group to encourage and foster collaborative efforts among individuals and entities engaged in disaster recovery relating to debris removal, S. 257, to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime, S. 206, to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to regularly review and update policies and manuals related to inspections at ports of entry, S. 679, to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to require Federal agencies to submit to the Comptroller General of the United

States a report on rules that are revoked, suspended, replaced, amended, or otherwise made ineffective, S. 829, to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to clarify a provision relating to certain contents of registrations under that Act, S. 794, to require a pilot program on the participation of non-asset-based third-party logistics providers in the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism, S. 931, to improve the visibility, accountability, and oversight of agency software asset management practices, S. 917, to establish the duties of the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency regarding open source software security, S. 945, to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism, S. 932, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the halt in pension payments for Members of Congress sentenced for certain offenses, and S. 933, to amend the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 to modify requirements relating to data centers of certain Federal agencies.

SD-562

1:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Homeland Security

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-192

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on Health Care

To hold hearings to examine the oral health crisis, focusing on identifying and addressing health disparities.

SD-215

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 460, to amend the Indian Health Care Improve-

ment Act to establish an urban Indian organization confer policy for the Department of Health and Human Services, S. 306, to approve the settlement of the water right claims of the Tule River Tribe, S. 595, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna in the Rio San Jose Stream System and the Pueblos of Jemez and Zia in the Rio Jemez Stream System in the State of New Mexico, and S. 950, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a technical correction to the water rights settlement for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the future of tribal energy development, focusing on implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

SD-628

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine personnel vetting modernization.

SH-216

MARCH 30

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight

To hold hearings to examine petrochemicals to waste, focusing on the lifecycle,

environmental, and climate effects of plastic.

SD-406

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine pharmacy benefit managers and the prescription drug supply chain, focusing on the impact on patients and taxpayers.

SD-215

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine guardianship and alternatives, focusing on protection and empowerment.

SD-106

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Subcommittee on Conservation, Climate, Forestry, and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine forestry in the Farm Bill, focusing on the importance of America's forests.

SR-328A

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Nicole D. Theriot, of Louisiana, to be Ambassador to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, and Ann Marie Yastishock, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador to the Republic of Vanuatu, both of the Department of State, and other pending nominations.

SD-419

MAY 3

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the 2024 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers budget and implementation of Water Resources Development Act of 2022.

SD-406

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S943–S974

Measures Introduced: Seventeen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 974–990, S.J. Res. 22, and S. Res. 125. **Page S954**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Legislative and Oversight Activities during the 117th Congress by the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs”. (S. Rept. No. 118–3) **Page S954**

Measures Passed:

National Poison Prevention Week: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 123, recognizing the week of March 19 through March 25, 2023, as “National Poison Prevention Week” and encouraging communities across the United States to raise awareness of the dangers of poisoning and promote poison prevention, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S951**

Measures Considered:

Authorizations for Use of Military Force Against Iraq—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of S. 316, to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S943–46, S946–50

Pending:

Schumer Amendment No. 15, to add an effective date. **Page S943**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 65 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. 70), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the bill. **Page S950**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, March 28, 2023; that at 11:30 a.m., Senate vote on or in relation to Johnson Amendment No. 11, and Ricketts Amendment No. 30; that at 2:30 p.m., Senate vote on or in relation to Cruz Amendment

No. 9, and Sullivan Amendment No. 33; that at 5:15 p.m., Senate vote on or in relation to Scott (FL) Amendment No. 13, and Hawley Amendment No. 40; and that the previous provisions of Thursday, March 23, 2023, in relation to the amendment votes remain in effect, and with two minutes for debate, equally divided, prior to each vote. **Page S967**

Fire Grants and Safety Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs. **Page S946**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the S. 316, Authorizations for Use of Military Force Against Iraq. **Page S946**

Appointments:

Congressional-Executive Commission on the People’s Republic of China: The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 106–286, appointed the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People’s Republic of China: Senators King and Duckworth. **Page S951**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Ann Elizabeth Carlson, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Page S974**

Messages from the House: **Page S952**

Measures Referred: **Page S952**

Executive Communications: **Pages S952–54**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S954–55**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S955–64**

Additional Statements: **Page S952**

Amendments Submitted: Pages S964–67

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today.
(Total—70) Page S950

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:35 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 28, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the re-

marks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S967.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 17 public bills, H.R. 1801–1817; and 6 resolutions, H.J. Res. 45; and H. Res. 255–259, were introduced.

Pages H1463–64

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H1465–66

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 158, of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to congressionally appropriated funds to the nation of Ukraine from January 20, 2021 to February 24, 2023 (H. Rept. 118–29).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Miller-Meeks to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H1441

Recess: The House recessed at 12:25 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. Page H1444

Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy: Representatives Womack and Davidson. Page H1444

Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy: Representatives Rutherford and McClain. Page H1444

Japan-United States Friendship Commission—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Japan-United States Friendship Commission: Representatives Smith (NE) and Takano. Page H1444

Migratory Bird Conservation Commission—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission: Representative Wittman. Page H1444

Recess: The House recessed at 2:05 p.m. and reconvened at 5 p.m. Pages H1444–45

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition: H. Con. Res. 15, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition. Pages H1445–46

Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act of 2023: H.R. 1154, to combat forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 413 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 163; Pages H1446–49, H1452–53

PRC Is Not a Developing Country Act: H.R. 1107, amended, to direct the Secretary of State to take certain actions with respect to the labeling of the People's Republic of China as a developing country, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 415 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 164; and

Pages H1449–51, H1453–54

Undersea Cable Control Act: H.R. 1189, to require the development of a strategy to eliminate the availability to foreign adversaries of goods and technologies capable of supporting undersea cables.

Pages H1451–52

Recess: The House recessed at 5:48 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. Page H1452

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1453 and H1453–54.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: On March 24, 2023, Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 1338, the “Satellite and Telecommunications Streamlining Act”; H.R. 675, the “Secure Space Act”; H.R. 1339, the “Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity Act”; H.R. 682, the “Launch Communications Act”; H.R. 1353, the “Advanced, Local Emergency Response Telecommunications Parity Act”; H.R. 1345, the “NTIA Policy and Cybersecurity Coordination Act”; H.R. 1354, the “Information and Communication Technology Strategy Act”; H.R. 1370, the “Communications Security Act”; H.R. 1360, the “American Cybersecurity Literacy Act”; H.R. 1340, the “Open RAN Outreach Act”; H.R. 1343, the “ITS Codification Act”; H.R. 1377, the “Promoting U.S. Wireless Leadership Act”; H.R. 1341, the “Spectrum Coordination Act”; H.R. 501, the “Block, Report, and Suspend Suspicious Shipments Act”; H.R. 498, the “9–8–8 Life-line Cybersecurity Responsibility Act”; H.R. 485, the “Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act of 2023”; H.R. 467, the “Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act”; H.R. 801, the “Securing the Border for Public Health Act of 2023”; and H.R. 1603, the “Homeowner Energy Freedom Act”. H.R. 1338, H.R. 675, H.R. 1339, H.R. 682, H.R. 1353, H.R. 485, and H.R. 501 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 1345, H.R. 1354, H.R. 1370, H.R. 1360, H.R. 1340, H.R. 1343, H.R. 1377, H.R. 1341, H.R. 1603, H.R. 498, H.R. 467, and H.R. 801 were ordered reported, without amendment.

LOWER ENERGY COSTS ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1, the “Lower Energy Costs Act”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1, the “Lower Energy Costs Act” under a structured rule. The rule provides seven hours of general debate with three hours equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees, three hours equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees, and one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or their respective designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The resolu-

tion provides that the amendment printed in part A of this report shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. Each amendment made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments printed in part B of the report are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Westerman, Chairman Graves of Missouri, Chairman Rodgers of Washington, and Representatives Grijalva, Larsen of Washington, Duncan, Pallone, and Correa.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Navy and Marine Corps, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Justice, 2:30 p.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Defense and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC–217, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Subcommittee on Seapower, to hold hearings to examine Navy and Marine Corps investment programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine regional nuclear deterrence, 4:45 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine recent bank failures and the Federal regulatory response, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine U.S. support of democracy and human rights, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider the nominations of Kalpana Kotagal, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Jessica Looman, of Minnesota, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, and Jose Javier Rodriguez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Labor, Moshe Z. Marvit, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, Linda A. Puchala, of Maryland, and Deirdre Hamilton, of the District of Columbia, both to be a Member of the National Mediation Board, and other pending calendar business, Time to be announced, S-216, Capitol.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Rules and Administration: to hold hearings to examine state and local perspectives on election administration, 3 p.m., SR-301.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, March 28, Full Committee, hearing entitled “For the purpose of receiving testimony from The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on the U.S. Space Force, 10 a.m., H-140 Capitol.

Subcommittee Homeland Security, budget hearing on the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, oversight hearing on the Office of Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development; and Office of Inspector General, Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10:30 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the House of Representatives, 11:30 a.m., HT-2 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1 p.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Architect of the Capitol, 1 p.m., HT-2 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 1:30 p.m., H-309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on the U.S. Army, 2 p.m., H-140 Capitol.

Subcommittee Homeland Security, budget hearing on the Transportation Security Administration, 2 p.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency, 2 p.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled “FY24 Request for Nuclear Forces and Atomic Energy Defense Activities”, 9 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Readiness; and Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, joint hearing entitled “Posture and Readiness of the Mobility Enterprise”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Unleashing America’s Opportunities for Hiring and Employment”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing and Critical Materials, hearing entitled “Government Response to East Palestine: Ensuring Safety and Transparency for the Community”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Preserving Free Speech and Reining in Big Tech Censorship”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Lowering Unaffordable Costs: Examining Transparency and Competition in Health Care”, 1 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 314, to prohibit the removal of Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism until Cuba satisfies certain conditions, and for other purposes; and legislation to require the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the ties between criminal gangs and political and economic elites in Haiti and impose sanctions on political and economic elites involved in such criminal activities, 10 a.m., HVC-210.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability, hearing entitled “Biden’s Growing Border Crisis: Death, Drugs, and Disorder on the Northern Border”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled “2022 Midterms Look Back Series: Government Voter Suppression in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania”, 10:30 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 930, the “Ski Hill Resources for Economic Development Act of 2023”; H.R. 1319, the “Biking on Long-Distance Trails Act”; H.R. 1380, the “Protecting America’s Rock Climbing Act”; H.R. 1527, the “Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation Act”; H.R. 1576, the “Federal Interior Land Media Act”; H.R. 1614, the “Range Access Act”; H.R. 1642, the “Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter Recreation Pass Act”;

and H.R. 1667, the “Ouachita National Forest Overnight Camping Act”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing entitled “Why We Need to Store More Water and What’s Stopping Us”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, hearing entitled “The Consequences of School Closures: Intended and Unintended”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services, hearing entitled “FDA Oversight Part I: The Infant Formula Shortage”, 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs, hearing entitled “Ensuring Force Readiness: Examining Progressivism’s Impact on an All-Volunteer Military”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access, hearing entitled “The End of Relationship Banking? Examining the CFPB’s ‘Small Business Lending Data Collection’ Rule”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “Reauthorizing the Weather Act: Data and Innovation for Predictions”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled “Reviewing the Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled “Maritime Transportation Supply Chain Issues”, 2 p.m., 2253 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The President’s Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request with Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on the National Security Agency and Cyber, hearing entitled “Budget hearing on the National Security Agency”, 10 a.m., HVC–304 Hearing Room. This hearing is closed.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine navigating U.S. export controls for Ukrainian victory, 3 p.m., HVC–200.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 28 through March 31, 2023

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of S. 316, Authorizations for Use of Military Force Against Iraq, post-cloture. Senate will vote on or in relation to Johnson Amendment No. 11, and Ricketts Amendment No. 30, at 11:30 a.m.; on or in relation to Cruz Amendment No. 9, and Sullivan Amendment No. 33, at 2:30 p.m.; and on or in rela-

tion to Scott (FL) Amendment No. 13, and Hawley Amendment No. 40, at 5:15 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: March 30, Subcommittee on Conservation, Climate, Forestry, and Natural Resources, to hold hearings to examine forestry in the Farm Bill, focusing on the importance of America’s forests, 10:30 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Appropriations: March 28, Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Navy and Marine Corps, 10 a.m., SD–192.

March 28, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Justice, 2:30 p.m., SD–192.

March 29, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of the Interior, 9:30 a.m., SD–124.

March 29, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Agriculture, 10 a.m., SD–192.

March 29, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Homeland Security, 1:30 p.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: March 28, to hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Defense and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC–217, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

March 28, Subcommittee on Seapower, to hold hearings to examine Navy and Marine Corps investment programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.

March 28, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine regional nuclear deterrence, 4:45 p.m., SR–222.

March 29, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, to hold hearings to examine enterprise cybersecurity to protect the Department of Defense Information Networks, 9:30 a.m., SR–232A.

March 30, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC–217, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: March 28, to hold hearings to examine recent bank failures and the Federal regulatory response, 10 a.m., SD-106.

Committee on the Budget: March 29, to hold hearings to examine the cost of oil dependence in a low-carbon world, 10 a.m., SD-608/VTC.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: March 29, to hold hearings to examine advancing next generation aviation technologies, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: March 29, to hold hearings to examine the EPA Good Neighbor rule, focusing on healthier air for downwind states, 10 a.m., SD-406.

March 30, Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight, to hold hearings to examine petrochemicals to waste, focusing on the lifecycle, environmental, and climate effects of plastic, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: March 29, Subcommittee on Health Care, to hold hearings to examine the oral health crisis, focusing on identifying and addressing health disparities, 2:30 p.m., SD-215.

March 30, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine pharmacy benefit managers and the prescription drug supply chain, focusing on the impact on patients and taxpayers, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: March 28, to hold hearings to examine U.S. support of democracy and human rights, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

March 30, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Nicole D. Theriot, of Louisiana, to be Ambassador to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, and Ann Marie Yastishock, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador to the Republic of Vanuatu, both of the Department of State, and other pending nominations, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: March 28, business meeting to consider the nominations of Kalpana Kotagal, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Jessica Looman, of Minnesota, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, and Jose Javier Rodriguez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Labor, Moshe Z. Marvit, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, Linda A. Puchala, of Maryland, and Deirdre Hamilton, of the District of Columbia, both to be a Member of the National Mediation Board, and other pending calendar business, Time to be announced, S-216, Capitol.

March 29, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the need to end illegal union busting at Starbucks, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: March 29, business meeting to consider S. 670, to improve services for trafficking victims by establishing, in Homeland Security Investigations, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking

Trauma Program and the Victim Assistance Program, S. 311, to correct the inequitable denial of enhanced retirement and annuity benefits to certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers, S. 285, to provide for the perpetuation, administration, and funding of Federal Executive Boards, S. 264, to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to require certain disclosures by registrants regarding exemptions under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, S. 211, to authorize the Administrator of General Services to establish an enhanced use lease pilot program, S. 709, to improve performance and accountability in the Federal Government, S. 717, to improve plain writing and public experience, S. 666, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Chief Operating Officer of each agency to compile a list of unnecessary programs, S. 824, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a national risk management cycle, S. 884, to establish a Government-wide approach to improving digital identity, S. 885, to establish a Civilian Cybersecurity Reserve in the Department of Homeland Security as a pilot project to address the cybersecurity needs of the United States with respect to national security, S. 479, to modify the fire management assistance cost share, S. 780, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to analyze certain legislation in order to prevent duplication of and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives, S. 108, to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance, S. 111, to require each agency, in providing notice of a rulemaking, to include a link to a 100-word plain language summary of the proposed rule, S. 349, to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize the appointment of spouses of members of the Armed Forces who are on active duty, disabled, or deceased to positions in which the spouses will work remotely, S. 243, to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities, S. 310, to establish an advisory group to encourage and foster collaborative efforts among individuals and entities engaged in disaster recovery relating to debris removal, S. 257, to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime, S. 206, to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to regularly review and update policies and manuals related to inspections at ports of entry, S. 679, to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to require Federal agencies to submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a report on rules that are revoked, suspended, replaced, amended, or otherwise made ineffective, S. 829, to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to clarify a provision relating to certain contents of registrations under that Act, S. 794, to require a pilot program on the participation of non-asset-based third-party logistics providers in the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism, S. 931, to improve the visibility, accountability, and oversight of agency software asset management practices, S. 917, to establish the duties of the Director of the Cybersecurity and

Infrastructure Security Agency regarding open source software security, S. 945, to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism, S. 932, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the halt in pension payments for Members of Congress sentenced for certain offenses, and S. 933, to amend the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 to modify requirements relating to data centers of certain Federal agencies, 10:30 a.m., SD-562.

Committee on Indian Affairs: March 29, business meeting to consider S. 460, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to establish an urban Indian organization confer policy for the Department of Health and Human Services, S. 306, to approve the settlement of the water right claims of the Tule River Tribe, S. 595, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna in the Rio San Jose Stream System and the Pueblos of Jemez and Zia in the Rio Jemez Stream System in the State of New Mexico, and S. 950, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a technical correction to the water rights settlement for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the future of tribal energy development, focusing on implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: March 28, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Rules and Administration: March 28, to hold hearings to examine state and local perspectives on election administration, 3 p.m., SR-301.

Select Committee on Intelligence: March 28, closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

March 29, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine personnel vetting modernization, 2:30 p.m., SH-216.

Special Committee on Aging: March 30, to hold hearings to examine guardianship and alternatives, focusing on protection and empowerment, 10 a.m., SD-106.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, March 29, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Justice, 9:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps, 10 a.m., H-140 Capitol.

March 29, Subcommittee Homeland Security, budget hearing on the Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Addressing the Challenges of Rural America”, 10 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, budget hearing

on the Department of Veterans Affairs, 10 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, budget hearing on the Department of the Treasury International Programs, 10 a.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, 10:30 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the U.S. Capitol Police, 11:30 a.m., HT-2 Capitol.

March 29, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Food and Drug Administration, 1 p.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service, 1 p.m., 2008 Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee Homeland Security, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 2 p.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, budget hearing on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 2:30 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 30, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 8 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 30, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Agriculture, 9 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

March 30, Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10 a.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, March 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2024 Defense Budget Request”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled “Military Department Personnel Chiefs: Personnel Posture”, 3 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request of the Department of Defense for Fixed-Wing Tactical and Training Aircraft Programs”, 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 30, Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation, hearing entitled “Cyberspace Operations: Conflict in the 21st Century”, 8:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, March 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Fiscal State of the Union”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Workforce, March 28, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Unleashing America’s Opportunities for Hiring and Employment”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, hearing entitled “Diversity of Thought: Protecting Free Speech on College Campuses”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, March 29, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2024 Department of Health and Human Services Budget”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce, hearing entitled “Taking the Buzzer Beater to the Bank: Protecting College Athletes’ NIL Dealmaking Rights”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Follow the Money: Oversight of President Biden’s Massive Spending Spree”, 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

March 30, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Reauthorization of the Animal Drug User Fee Programs”, 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, March 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Federal Regulators’ Response to Recent Bank Failures”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, March 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight, Transparency, and Accountability of Ukraine Assistance”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

March 29, Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability, hearing entitled “Examining U.S. Sanctions Policy, Implementation, and Enforcement”, 3 p.m., HVC–210 Capitol.

Committee on the Judiciary, March 29, Subcommittee on Responsiveness and Accountability to Oversight, hearing entitled “Hearing on Compliance with Committee Oversight”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

March 30, Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, hearing entitled “Hearing on the Weaponization of the Federal Government”, 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, March 29, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled “Challenges and Opportunities for Improving Healthcare Delivery in Tribal Communities”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, March 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Overdue Oversight of the Capital City: Part I”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce, hearing entitled “Login.gov Doesn’t Meet the Standard”, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

March 29, Full Committee, markup on H.J. Res. 42, disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022, 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, hearing entitled “Fueling Unaffordability: How the Biden Administration’s Policies Catalyzed Global Energy Scarcity and Compounded Inflation”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, March 29, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 676, the “Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2023”; H.R.

1482, the “NOAA Weather Radio Modernization Act of 2023”; H.R. 1496, the “National Weather Service Communications Improvement Act”; H.R. 1713, the “DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act”; H.R. 1715, the “Advanced Weather Model Computing Development Act”; H.R. 1734, the “TRANQ Research Act”; and H.R. 1735, the “Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, March 29, Subcommittee on Rural Development, Energy, and Supply Chains, hearing entitled “Highlighting the Role of Small Businesses in Domestic Energy Production”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, March 30, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled “FAA Reauthorization: Harnessing the Evolution of Flight to Deliver for the American People”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, March 29, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing on H.R. 234, the “Gerald’s Law Act”; H.R. 854, the “Captain James C. Edge Gold Star Spouse Equity Act”; H.R. 984, the “Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act”; H.R. 1139, the “GUARD VA Benefits Act”; H.R. 1329, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase in the maximum number of judges who may be appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; H.R. 1378, the “Veterans’ Appeals Backlog Improvement Act”; H.R. 1529, the “Veterans’ Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2023”; and H.R. 1530, the “Veterans Benefits Improvement Act”, 10:30 a.m., 390 Cannon.

March 29, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on H.R. 41, the “VA Same-Day Scheduling Act of 2023”; H.R. 562, the “Improving Veterans Access to Congressional Services Act of 2023”; H.R. 808, the “Veterans Patient Advocacy Act”; H.R. 754, the “Modernizing Veterans’ Health Care Eligibility Act”; H.R. 693, the “Veterans Affairs Medical Center Absence and Notification Timeline Act”; H.R. 1089, the “VA Medical Center Facility Transparency Act”; H.R. 366, the “Korean American VALOR Act”; H.R. 542, the “Elizabeth Dole Home- and Community-Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2023”; and H.R. 1256, the “Veterans Health Administration Leadership Transformation Act”, 1:30 p.m., 2253 Rayburn.

March 30, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing on H.R. 291, the “Vaccine Discharge Parity Act”; H.R. 645, the “Healthy Foundations for Homeless Veterans Act”; H.R. 728, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment and Training to carry out a pilot program on short-term programs for veterans; H.R. 746, the “Streamlining Aviation for Eligible Veterans Act”; H.R. 1169, the “VA E-Notification Enhancement Act”; legislation on the Protect Military Dependents Act; legislation on the Filipino Education Fairness Act; legislation on the Get Rewarding Outdoor Work for our Veterans Act; legislation on the Ensure Military Personnel Learn Opportunities Yielding Vocations that Employ Transitioning Servicemembers Act; legislation on the VET-TEC Authorization Act of 2023; and legislation to

amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that educational assistance paid under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs to an individual who pursued a program or course of education that was suspended or terminated by reason of a determination of fraud shall not be charged against the entitlement of the individual, and for other purposes, 9:30 a.m., 390 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, March 29, Subcommittee on Work and Welfare, hearing entitled “Welfare is Broken: Restoring Work Requirements to Lift Americans Out of Poverty”, 2 p.m., 2020 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, March 29, Subcommittee on Defense Intelligence and Overhead Archi-

ture, hearing entitled “Budget hearing on the National Reconnaissance Office and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency”, 9 a.m., HVC-304 Hearing Room. This hearing is closed.

March 30, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Budget hearing on the Office of the Director of National Intelligence”, 8:30 a.m., HVC-304 Hearing Room. This hearing is closed.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: March 28, to hold hearings to examine navigating U.S. export controls for Ukrainian victory, 3 p.m., HVC-200.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 28

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of S. 316, Authorizations for Use of Military Force Against Iraq, post-cloture. Senate will vote on or in relation to Johnson Amendment No. 11, and Ricketts Amendment No. 30, at 11:30 a.m.; on or in relation to Cruz Amendment No. 9, and Sullivan Amendment No. 33, at 2:30 p.m.; and on or in relation to Scott (FL) Amendment No. 13, and Hawley Amendment No. 40, at 5:15 p.m.

(Senate will recess following the vote on or in relation to Ricketts Amendment No. 30, until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 28

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 1—Lower Energy Costs Act.

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